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FBIS-NES-90-072 *13 April 1990*

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Algeria

Delegation Participates in Parliamentary Talks

LD1104111690 Algiers APS in English 1032 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Algiers, 11/4/90 (APS)—The 83d conference of the International Union of Parliament which was held recently in Nicosia, Cyprus, adopted a number of resolutions mainly on employment, vocational training, and new technologies. The struggle against drug smuggling and on the promotion of peace and security in the Mediterranean in light of the changes in Europe and the new spirit prevailing at the international level. [as received]

The resolution on the Mediterranean region was the subject of long debates and invited states that are foreign to the area to withdraw their fleet from the Mediterranean and put an end to their military presence and exercises in the area.

The resolution also underlined that tension can not be eliminated from the Mediterranean without a fair and lasting solution to the Middle East problem and which will give the Palestinian people their rights.

In this context, it reaffirmed the necessity to hold an international peace conference in the Middle East under UN auspices with the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Moreover, Algeria was elected as a member of the drafting committee of the Political Commission and took an active part in the elaboration of the text of the resolution.

The Algerian parliamentary delegation led by the vice chairman of the People's National Assembly, Abdelaziz Belkhadem, had talks with a number of heads of delegations on questions examined by the conference and on bilateral cooperation. It also actively participated in the meetings held by the Arab, African and non-aligned groups.

The Algerian delegation also took part in the general debate on the points included in the agenda and made an expose on the Algerian experience in the field of employment and vocational training.

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Chadian President's Message

NC1204104690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 12 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received a written message from Chadian President Hissein Habre concerning the recent confrontations and clashes on the Sudan-Chad borders. Adoum Moussa Seif, Chadian minister of information and civic orientation, gave the message to President Mubarak when they met. Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, attended the meeting.

Dr. Ghali stated that President Habre sent the message to President Mubarak in the latter's capacity as a friend and OAU chairman who is working to resolve and contain the problems and disputes between African countries.

Palestinian Citizen Given to Israeli Forces

JN1204123790 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] The Egyptian authorities handed over a Palestinian citizen to the Israeli forces last week.

Hasan al-Kulaybi, a resident of Tulkarm Camp, had managed to cross the Egyptian border fleeing from the Zionist army. However, the Israeli Army asked that he be handed over to be put on trial.

The al-Kulaybi family expressed concern over the fate of their son after he was handed over to Israel. It is worth mentioning that this is the first time Israeli security organs' requests to hand over escapees from the Zionist entity's jails and prisons were complied with.

Soviet Envoy Meets 'Abd-al-Majid in Cairo

NC1204153690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 12 Apr (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Gennadiy Zhuravlev, Soviet ambassador in Cairo, today.

The Soviet ambassador said after the meeting that he had briefed 'Abd-al-Majid on the outcome of the recent talks in Washington between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his U.S. counterpart James Baker. The ambassador added that, during their talks, the Soviet and U.S. officials discussed developments in the Middle East and the ongoing efforts to advance the peace process in the region.

He asserted that his country views a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue as an important preliminary step toward achieving a peaceful settlement in the region. He noted that the dialogue must be followed by other steps under the auspices of the United Nations and the Security Council.

He disclosed that the Soviet Union has again proposed that the the UN secretary general appoint a special envoy to the Middle East. The Soviet ambassador said he and 'Abd-al-Majid also discussed the issue of the settlement of Soviet Jewish emigrants in the occupied territories. He pointed out that his country has called a UN Security Council meeting to discuss the illegal measures to settle the emigrants in the occupied territories.

He said the issue of establishing a direct air link between Israel and the Soviet Union has not been discussed so far. He stressed he has no information about the use of Cairo as a transit point for Soviet Jewish immigrants to the occupied territories.

New Envoy to Syria Leaves for Damascus 12 Apr

NC1204185190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1749 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 12 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz [name as received], Egypt's new ambassador to Syria, left Cairo for Damascus this evening to take up his post there. It should be noted that diplomatic relations between Egypt and Syria were resumed on 27 December.

Palestinian Delegation Leaves Cairo for Aden

NC1204171190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1606 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 12 Apr (MENA)—Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, and 'Abdallah Hurani, members of the PLO Executive Committee, left Cairo for Aden this afternoon at the end of a three-day visit to Egypt.

While in Cairo, the Palestinian delegation held talks with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on Middle East developments. Palestine's Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal and Fatah representative Zuhdi al-Qidrah saw the Palestinian delegation off at the airport.

Editor Condemns Handling of Opposition Papers

JN1204125290 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 10 Apr 90 p 1

[By Chief Editor Jamal Badawi]

[Text] I searched for the chief editors of the Egyptian opposition papers in the president's visits to Iraq and Jordan but found no trace of them! I searched for them in the news conference held by the leaders of the quadripartite council but heard no mention of them. And I began looking for a reasonable excuse preventing the chief editors of opposition papers from covering these visits and missions—which are of a pan-Arab nature—but found none. The Egyptian Government, perhaps, thinks that pan-Arab action is confined to papers that are termed "national". This is a big fallacy and a distortion of the truth. The opposition papers are no less believers in the pan-Arab message, which rises above party differences, than the government papers. Indeed, they are more entitled to this description than the government-owned papers.

I do not believe that the kings and presidents of the Arab countries can feel delighted with this negligence by opposition papers. Experience bears witness to the fact that the Arab countries are eager to deal with Egyptian papers on the same scale and the same criteria. Iraq never invites an Egyptian delegation unless it comprises representatives from Egyptian parties and papers regardless of their political affiliation. Iraq views this as a pure pan-Arab issue.

The same can be said about Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf countries. Toward the end of the past year, the United Arab Emirates invited senior Egyptian journalists, including representatives of opposition papers, to attend its national day celebrations and a major news conference held by His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan. Several weeks later, Qatar invited all chief editors of Egyptian papers prior to the scheduled visit to Egypt by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani. It did not differentiate between a proponent and an opponent. Everyone attended the amir's news conference in Doha and all celebrations held for him in Cairo. After that, Kuwaiti heir apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah visited Egypt and held a news conference at al-Qubbah Palace attended by all chief editors—opponents and proponents alike.

How come Arab kings and presidents adopt such a positive outlook on opposition papers while the pan-Arab (!!) Government of Egypt treats them with negligence and disregard? It is as though these noble journalists were scrap, not deserving to be equal to their fellow journalists in the so-called national papers. Is it a positive pan-Arab conduct to have a number of Egyptian journalists standing away from the center of current events in the Arab region?

The opposition papers often receive compliments from senior state officials, and hear praise for the patriotism of their workers. We hear this from Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi, and from the president of the Republic. But so far we have not seen anything to prove that the state means what it says; it sells us lip service and unsubstantiated rhetoric. The proverb "Your words are fine but your actions are surprising" applies here! It is surprising that the state is using two scales in an age thick with appeals for equality, justice, and democracy.

Libya

Comment on U.S., UK Allegations Against France

LD1204163990 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1440 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Tripoli, 12 April (JANA)—British Prime Minister Thatcher has declared that she absoutely refused to hold any talks for the release of her citizens held hostage in Lebanon. In a statement to the German news agency ALLGEMEINER DEUTSCHER NACHRICHTENDIENST, she alleged that France had managed to obtain the release of its hostages by making a deal with Libya. Moreover, THE NEW YORK TIMES has described the release of the French hostages as being part of a deal struck by Libya with France.

JANA International Affairs editor has commented on these two statements by saying that America and Britain do not want France to play a prominent role in the region through which it endeavors to establish good relations and close links with the Arab and African countries.

The editor added that France is playing an effective role in deepening the relations and links between the Arab nations and the EC and it is also striving for the establishment of this dailogue with a view to finding solutions to the region's problems, securing peace in the Mediterranean and building bridges of cooperation for the establishment of balanced relations based on mutual respect between the states of the region.

JANA international affairs editor stated that Britain had no role left to play in Europe and it has become merely an island in the American orbit. American stands toward the region have been repeatedly exposed and are no secret to anybody now. The editor added that America and Britain want to destroy that bridge which France is building between the states of the region and they are trying to cast doubt on the credibility of the French stands which are characterized by a civilized dimension that has comprehended the real nature of the political dealings between the nations and the peoples.

The editor also stated that the allegations made by Britain and America against France constitute a defamation of the French stands which have reflected an independent political will. These allegations have also harmed their own and effective [as received] role in the region. The British and American stands also harm the humanitarian role played by the Great Jamahiriyah in the release of the hostages. These stands are a common and base attempt aimed at reviling this great humanitarian role.

The editor concluded his commentary by saying that the Great Jamahiriyah will continue to work for the establishment of a real peace in the Mediterranean by cooperating with France which is a free state that does not submit to U.S. hegemony. This free political path will surpass, with its civilized attitude, the behavior of the British Government which has now lost its will and acts only under the orders dictated by the U.S. Adminstration. This has resulted for the British people in the loss of their will and political existence.

Sudan

U.S. Peace Plan Accepted With 'Reservations'

AB1204215690 Paris AFP in French 1805 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Apr (AFP)—The Sudanese Government accepts with "some reservations" the American plan for restoring peace in southern Sudan, which it considers "acceptable on the whole," it was stated today in a news conference by Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, the spokesman of the Sudanese Military Junta. He pointed out that the Sudanese Government had "some reservations about some points in this plan, which need to be discussed."

The American peace plan, whose content was not revealed but which is reported to provide for a cease-fire, was presented to the Sudanese authorities by Mr. Herman Cohen, the assistant secretary of state for African affairs, during a discreet visit to Khartoum last month.

Questioned about the reestablishment of multiparty politics, which is also said to be provided for in the American plan, Col. Sulayman said Sudanese authorities hope for the establishment of a government in which "all the people would participate without consideration for (?individual) interests."

Acknowledging that a purely military government would be unable to succeed, the junta spokesman, however, stated that the party system that prevailed in the past was not "the ideal form of democracy."

Finally, Col. Sulayman said he was optimistic about the chances for success of the peace process, adding that the Sudanese Government had no intention of "hardening its position on procedural questions." He noted that the southern rebels of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] had, for their part, "made some concessions." He nevetheless stated that the Sudanese Government "would not yield an inch when it comes to national sovereignty."

NSRCC Ratifies Libyan Integration Plan

EA1204114590 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 11 April (SUNA)—The National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] and the Council of Ministers have ratified the draft law pertaining to the declaration of integration between Sudan and the Libyan Jamahiriyah for 1990. This took place this morning when the two councils met under the chairmanship of Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the NSRCC chairman and prime minister.

The foreign minister, Mr.'Ali Ahmad Sahlul, who presented the draft law, said that the integration declaration was ratified before, but measures had to be completed for its ratification. In a statement to SUNA, his excellency said that [word indistinct] ratification by the Libyan Jamahiriyah. He said that the two countries would strive equally to complete the measures to implement the integration.

Al-Bashir Praises Interior Minister, Police

EA1204152190 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution

Command Council [NSRCC] and prime minister, today wrote to Major General Faysal 'Ali Abu Salih, member of the NSRCC and interior minister, commending the outstanding performance of the police force. Lt. Gen. 'Umar praised the minister and his wise administration for uplifting the Interior Ministry's performance. The NSRCC chairman also praised the efforts of the police in their various ranks, positions, and areas of specialization in (?protecting) the internal front from dangers posed by greedy people, black marketeers, highway robbers, and conspirators among the workers [word indistinct].

Rebel Radio Comments on Cabinet Reshuffle

EA1204201790 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] We comment on Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir's Cabinet reshuffle. What motivated it? The leader of the National Islamic Front [NIF] Junta on Tuesday 10th April announced the Cabinet reshuffle and sacked the minister of finance, Sayyid Ali Zaki, and Information Minister Ali Muhammad Shummu. New faces were also brought into the Cabinet: Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, now given the housing portfolio, and 'Abdullah Muhammad Ahmad, appointed minister of education.

The present reshuffle comes at a time when the junta is facing deep isolation both internally and internationally. Even before 'Umar al-Bashir announced the Cabinet reshuffle, it was apparent that two Cabinet ministers were waiting for the day they are to be sacked. The two are the culture and information minister, 'Ali Shummu, and the finance minister, Sayyid Zaki. 'Ali Shummu has been rebuked by the member of the Military Council [National Salvation Revolution Command Council], Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, who heads the information committee for granting licenses for the issuing of two newspapers after the junta closed down almost all the newspapers in the country, except those sponsored by the NIF. Sayyid Zaki was sacked because he got parallel [as heard] with the head of economic committee, Salah al-Din Muhammad Ahmad al-Karrar, and Colonel [as heard] Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah on economic policy to be pursued by the junta.

Although the junta has recently been talking about their successes in winning over to their side some members of the Ummah Party and DUP [Democratic Unionist Party], the new Cabinet does not include any potential members of the two parties. The junta's talk of gaining support among the members of the parties they banned is not only misleading but reflects an unachievable wish—at a time when the NIF junta has plunged itself into political and economic entanglement.

The new appointments to the Cabinet are loyalists to the NIF. By this appointment, the Junta wants to claim that they have support among the Ummah Party and the DUP. But when we examine these newly appointed ministers one by one, we can only but decategorize as loyalists to the NIF. The new finance minister, 'Abd al-Rahim Muhammad Hamdi, has been in the leadership of the Muslim brothers up to 1969. Khawjali Salihin, who has replaced Ali Shummu as minister of culture and information, is an old sympathizer of the NIF and has served as a minister under dictator al-Numayri during the euphoria of the September [shari'a] laws.

With this reshuffle, the junta has brought in elements of the NIF who have been out of the government since the 30th June coup. This reshuffle contradicts the junta's claim that they have penetrated and won over the supporters of the sectarian parties they have banned. The leader of the NIF, Hasan al-Turabi, in an article published by AL-QABAS newspaper, issue No. 6423 of Monday 26th March 1990, said the NIF has won over Abdullah Muhammad Ahmad and Bakri Ahmad Adil from the Ummah Party to the NIF, but the facts explain themselves. The appointment of Abdullah Muhammad Ahmad to the Cabinet is a direct [words indistinct] of Hasan al-Turabi to reciprocate his recruitment to the NIF by Abdullah Muhammad Ahmad. The Ummah Party does not fit anywhere in this equation.

Few weeks before the reshuffle, the junta sent the NIF leader, Hasan al-Turabi, to London for what they called to initiate negotiations with the opposition parties. The facts are that the junta has been trying to bribe some opportunists in order to use them for blindfolding the Sudanese and world public opinion that the present regime enjoys the support of the Sudanese public. The junta thinks that the Sudanese masses are foolish and can believe their concocted story of the so-called widening support for the junta.

The junta's talk of imaginary support of the Sudanese public (?reflects their) shamelessness to try to fit a goat skin on a leopard. The Junta must stop imagining that the Sudanese public have gone mentally derailed, and therefore cannot conceive the increasing brutality of the present regime. With the new Cabinet reshuffle, the NIF junta intends to double their repressions on the people in an attempt to get their self-styled policy afoot. But the opportunists who have joined the Cabinet should be reminded that those who prepare a poison by burning must finally taste it to know whether it is cooked.

Official Addresses Regional People's Committee

EA1204151190 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2245 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Staff Brigadier General Pio Yukwan Deng, Revolution Command Council member and political supervisor of Upper Nile Region, witnessed the swearing-in of the regional chairman and members of the People's Salvation Committees at the regional government buildings yesterday morning.

Addressing the members of the committee, his excellency said the revolution was working to achieve peace and stability in the country. He called on them to unify the internal front and comprehensively rally the region's citizens in order to achieve stability. He said the members of the people's committees had not been selected on a tribal or partisan basis, but on the basis of sincerity, nationalism, and commitment.

His excellency called on the people's committees to cooperate with the regional executive authorities in supervising commodities and combatting corruption and black marketeering. He reviewed what has been achieved in ensuring the timely arrival of salaries, commodities, and medicines in the region and of agricultural inputs in the productive areas in northern Upper Nile, as well as the resettlement of migrants.

Saddam Reacts to Bush's 3 Apr Statements

JN0704143890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1216 GMT 7 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Apr (INA)—The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned that President Saddam Husayn has been informed of U.S. President George Bush's statements of 3 April. The president commented on the statements as follows:

President Bush said: Now is not the time for talking about using chemical and biological weapons. He added: The time is not appropriate for escalating tension in the Middle East.

President Saddam Husayn stated:

We talked about using chemical weapons in the course of our speech should Israel threaten us or threaten any Arab nation militarily, including using nuclear weapons that it owns. Did President Bush expect us to speak with a different tone? No. If President Bush had thought of the possibility that the Soviets would use nuclear weapons against the United States or that they would threaten him with using them, would anyone have criticized President Bush had he said that he would retaliate and kill them by using all the weapons in his possession? No. Would President Bush himself have remained silent about it?

If there is anyone who believes that we have responded to a supposition that Israel has not yet voiced, we hope that this supposition will not materialize with Israel threatening to use nuclear weapons or actually using them, allowing us to perform our national and pan-Arab duties and practice our constitutional responsibilities in responding to it militarily with all the weapons we own.

In addition, we are not the ones who are escalating tensions in the Middle East. Israel is the one escalating tension in the Middle East by occupying the land of the Palestinians, using oppressive methods, and killing the Palestinians tragically and maliciously on a daily basis. The one escalating tension in the Middle East is the United States by supporting Israel in its occupation of Palestinian territory and through its continuing support for power purposes, and thus its belligerence makes it seem uncaring about the demands of the people for their rights to their land, security, and dignity. In addition, Israel is being helped through the emigration of Soviet Jews and the continuing U.S. pressure on the Soviets to realize this goal. Is this not escalating tension? Is it not escalating tension when the United States agrees with England on an intelligence operation whose hostile objectives are known and revealed, in order to portray simple scientific trade as the development of nuclear bombs, which makes it easier for Israel—thirsting for aggression—to attack secure Iraq?

Let us touch on this subject directly. Do you not believe, in accordance with the measures of humanity, security, and equal rights for all countries confirmed by the UN Charter, that the Arabs have the right to own the weapons that their enemy possesses? And that the fact that the Arabs, the aggrieved party whose land and security have been attacked, own weapons will bring about greater respect for the principles of security and sovereignty, thus realizing security by facilitating the task of whoever works for just peace in the Middle East? Do you not believe, in accordance with a humanitarian view remote from the considerations of the statement and its timing, that it is the duty of the major world powers, one of which is, or foremost of which is the United States, to arm the Arabs or the Arab countries—the ones most likely to be attacked by Israel—with the same weapons that Israel owns? You know that Israel owns nuclear, chemical, and bacteriological weapons.

President Bush says: I believe that these statements are bad and I strongly urge Iraq to abandon the use of chemical weapons. I do not believe that it will help peace in the Middle East. It is clear that they will not help the security interests of Iraq. They are definitely a mistake and that is why I suggest that these statements be retracted.

President Saddam Husayn remarks:

Bad things, to be described as such, to have the description apply to them, and to make the description void of premeditated intention, make the described words or actions necessarily unjust when they harm someone. Does President Bush find that the right to defend oneself is bad, whether this right takes the form of warning those intending aggression and enlightening them about the grave consequences or using direct material means to confront them?

If this is President Bush's belief, let him propose it for discussion at the United Nations so that the countries of the world can hear his opinion, both those that helped to set the principles, and those that joined the international community based on its principles. Only then will President Bush see that the whole world, and not just Iraq, will tell him that his opinions are bad.

President Saddam adds: If the acquisition of various types of arms in today's world does not help the security concerns of world states, then the superpowers and major powers must begin to implement this premise. When that happens, the smaller states' turn will come, including Iraq, to apply this premise. This is the proper arrangement, as it takes into account the magnitude of the responsibility borne by each nation and also the types and quantities of arms possessed by each of these nations. When this happens, you will find that Iraq will be the happiest of all—or at least one of the happiest countries—as it would like to see all mankind dedicate its efforts to causes remote from the production of means of killing and destruction. All mankind would then devote its efforts to peaceful and secure existence to help achieve prosperity and scientific advancement. Thus, we would join together and form, for the first time in the history of mankind, a single internationalist community on the surface of the globe. If that happened, you would

not find any reason to ban Iraq and others from enjoying the right to transfer technology and scientific advancement for new life purposes, as you are doing right now.

The arrangement described by Iraq for producing happiness and a peaceful life is the arrangement that suits Iraq. It is also an arrangement deserved by Iraq, since Iraq is a country that has an ancient civilization dating back to 6,000 years of civilization. Iraq is the first country to enact the first human law that accurately spelled out rights and duties. In addition, Iraq is the first country to sacrifice the cream of its youth to defend the peace and security of the entire region, not only of Iraq, throughout the eight years of a ferocious war against a devastating Iranian offensive and against Israel's stab in the back in 1981 when the latter destroyed the Tammuz nuclear reactor—which was built for peaceful purposes. I am saying that, for these and other reasons, Iraq knows and understands better than others, and in accordance with the arrangement that we have described, the meaning of peace and security. Having made the clarification that we have just explained and on the basis of reciprocity, we find that President Bush's proposal that we retract our statement is a proposal that must be implemented by him and not by us. Consequently, we propose to him that he retract his words or his proposal.

Before concluding, we would like to reaffirm that Iraq wants to establish a durable and just peace—not only in our region, the Middle East, but also on the entire globe. This is the feeling of all Arabs, and not just that of Iraqis. We agree with whoever says that the approach based on threats and intimidation is not the proper way to achieve peace and security in the region and the world. However, we also believe that the legitimate right to defend ourselves, our security, and our homeland is a duty, because it is an inalienable right. Besides, this right is part of the foundations and requirements of the sovereignty of any nation. Moreover, Iraq has unquestionably and unequivocally shown that it is an advocate of peace through peace calls it continued to make throughout the war years with Iran. Iraq has proved that it has a sense of responsibility, that it is not an opportunistic country, and that it uses force to vindicate right and justice. You are well-aware of this, as your satellites and other means have enabled you to learn the magnitude of Iran's military defeat—a defeat without which the cease-fire would not have materialized and peace would have become almost impossible. You know that Iraq has not exploited this defeat to achieve anything other than bringing about peace and security. You are also well-aware that Israel, not Iraq, has built its alleged glory, and the entity that it uses to receive further immigrants, on the tragedies inflicted on all Arabs and not only on the Palestinians. You also know that Israel has maintained an intransigent position on the minimum demands made by the Arabs and Palestinians regarding their rights. Hence, the fear of irresponsible behavior regarding the use of arms, including mass destruction weapons, must be addressed to Israel and not to Iraq.

Saddam, U.S. Senate Delegation Discuss Ties

JN1204180890 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn received the U.S. Senate delegation led by Robert Dole at noon today. The conferees discussed, during the meeting, relations between Iraq and the United States, the regional situation and developments, and the tendentious campaign against Iraq.

Leader President Saddam Husayn explained Iraq's clear stance on the campaign and reaffirmed Iraq's right to defend its security, sovereignty, and dignity with all means against any form of Israeli threat and aggression, in accordance with the content of his excellency's speech on 2 April.

His excellency also said that Iraq and the Arab nation are working seriously to achieve a comprehensive and just peace that guarantees Arab rights.

His excellency noted that the entire world knows that the Zionist entity is the aggressor that commits aggression against the Arab nation and the Palestinians, disregards international laws and resolutions, and constitutes a serious threat to world security and peace. He also noted that the United States and European countries should address the aggressor Zionist entity that violates international laws.

The leader president stated that Iraq neither possesses nuclear weapons nor is trying to obtain them. He denied the tendentious allegations that Iraq is manufacturing biological weapons. His excellency reminded the delegation that it is the Zionist entity that possesses nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.

The meeting was candid and practical and was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council, deputy foreign minister, and foreign minister; and the U.S. ambassador in Baghdad.

Saddam Calls for 'Comprehensive Disarmament'

JN1204182090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] The U.S. Congress delegation met at noon today with President Saddam Husayn in the presence of Tariq 'Aziz. The leader of the delegation voiced satisfaction with the results of the meeting, saying he considered it fruitful.

Tariq 'Aziz spoke to reporters in Mosul, where the meeting took place. He said the U.S. delegation raised in its talks with President Saddam all the accusations disseminated by the news media. He added that President Saddam dealt with this objectively and with clarity and frankness. He concentrated on Iraq's right to possess modern technology and weapons in order to safeguard its security as long as there was another party possessing this weapon and harboring hostility toward us. He added

that Iraq does not apologize for any weapon it possesses, although it does not possess a nuclear weapon. The binary chemical weapon is a sufficient deterrent.

President Saddam Husayn reiterated to the delegation Iraq's right to retaliate with the chemical weapon if Israel used the atomic weapon. The president talked about comprehensive disarmament of atomic, chemical, and biological weapons in the region, including Iran. He explained Iraq's conception of security in the region to the U.S. delegation, saying that the atomic weapons are more dangerous to mankind than chemical weapons.

The U.S. delegation conveyed a message from President Bush to the Iraqi president concerning Washington's desire to develop relations with Iraq. President Saddam also stressed Iraq's desire to do so on the basis of serving peace and mutual interests.

Tariq 'Aziz said the Congress delegation's visit expressed the U.S. political institution's desire for dialogue, but he said it would be difficult to say that the crisis was over. He welcomed dialogue with Washington. The Iraqi foreign minister told a member of the U.S. delegation: You have obtained from President Saddam a responsible statement to remove weapons once an agreement is reached in this respect. Could you get a promise from Israel to this effect? The U.S. delegation's member remained silent.

Tariq 'Aziz Comments

JN1204126990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2010 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Apr (WAKH)—Iraq declared today its full readiness to accept comprehensive disarmament of all kinds of mass destruction weapons in the region, even in Iran. Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said at a news conference here today that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn gave the U.S. Senate delegation a clear and full explanation of Iraq's right to scientific and technological progress and its right to possess, together with the Arab nation, the weapons their enemies possess.

Earlier, President Saddam Husayn met for two and a half hours with a U.S. Senate delegation led by Republican Minority Leader Robert Dole in the first direct contact between the two parties since the Western media created the clamor over Iraq.

Tariq 'Aziz repeated that Iraq does not possess nuclear weapons. He said that all allegations that Iraq possesses this weapon, or is trying to obtain it, or to obtain materials and equipment that help acquire it, are false and baseless. 'Aziz added that President Saddam Husayn—in his talks with the U.S. delegation—denied categorically and officially the claims that Iraq is manufacturing biological weapons.

Tariq 'Aziz repeated that Iraq possesses binary chemical weapons. He said that we believe this binary chemical weapon has a relative deterrent factor against Israel. He added that President Saddam Husayn explained this position clearly to the U.S. delegation, reaffirming to them that if Israel embarks on aggression against Iraq, Iraq will retaliate against the Israeli aggression, and that if Israel uses nuclear weapons in the aggression against Iraq, Iraq will use the binary chemical weapon in retaliation for the Israeli nuclear aggression.

The Iraqi foreign minister said: We have nothing to hide on this subject. He reaffirmed Iraq's right—within the framework of self-defense—to possess any weapon. He said: We are not afraid of admitting and announcing the weapons we possess.

The Iraqi official referred to allegations that the chemical weapons pose a danger. He said that President Saddam explained to the U.S. delegation that nuclear weapons are more dangerous to mankind and the environment than chemical weapons, stating that Iraq rejects any argument to the contrary.

The Iraqi foreign minister said that the Iraqis at today's talks challenged a member of the U.S. delegation to obtain a definitive statement from the Zionist leaders on the question of comprehensive disarmament of all mass destruction weapons as he [the member of the U.S. delegation] listened to President Saddam Husayn define the position of Iraq and the Arab group on this subject.

Tariq 'Aziz said that it is Israel, not the Arab countries, that threatens regional security and stability and would use such weapons. The Arab countries, he added, were the victims of Israeli aggression in the past and are still threatened by Israeli aggression in which conventional, nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons would be used.

The Iraqi foreign minister described the meeting between President Saddam Husayn and the U.S. Senate delegation as useful and said it was an opportunity to explain Iraq's position and the position of the Arabs on this issue and on the Palestine question. 'Aziz added that President Saddam Husayn reaffirmed, during the meeting with the U.S. delegation, the right of the Palestinians and of the PLO to represent them in any endeavor to resolve the conflict.

The Iraqi foreign minister hoped that the U.S. delegation would convey objectively and honestly to U.S. President George Bush, the U.S. Congress, and U.S. public opinion what they heard from President Saddam Husayn.

Replying to a question, he said the message conveyed by the delegation to President Saddam Husayn expressed the desire to develop relations with Iraq. President Saddam Husayn asked the delegation to convey a reply expressing Iraq's desire to develop its relations with the United States on the basis of mutual respect and common interests and in a manner serving peace in the region and the world.

He said the senators, who met with President Saddam Husayn, admired Iraq's call for the comprehensive

removal of weapons of mass destruction. He added that Arab countries are committed to the position they recently adopted on this subject in Paris. He said there is no objection to raising it again and repeating it in international forums, stressing that this position will continue to be reflected in Iraqi and Arab diplomacy.

The Iraqi foreign minister described the current visit to Iraq by a delegation from the International Atomic Energy Authority [IAEA] as new evidence of Iraq's clean record in this area. He added that the visit is a routine one and that several IAEA delegations had paid similar visits in the past years.

The Iraqi foreign minister ridiculed British allegations that an attempt had been made to smuggle weapons to Iraq and said the British have begun to imagine that any Iraqi order is an attempt to purchase advanced weapons from the British market. He added that if an Iraqi corporation asked to buy chocolate from the British market, they would object and say the chocolate could be used to develop a nuclear weapon.

Tariq 'Aziz vehemently denied reports on a rapprochement between Iraq and Syria and said: I assure you there is absolutely no foundation to all these press reports.

He said Iraq is awaiting UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's reply to his remarks on the next round of direct talks between Iraq and Iran in order to achieve a comprehensive peace between the two countries. He said: Iraq has accepted in principle the secretary general's call for the resumption of talks, but we are waiting for details from the United Nations.

UK Envoy on British Report on Pipes to Iraq

JN1204174290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] London, 12 Apr (INA)—'Azmi Shafiq al-Salihi, Iraq's ambassador to Britain, denied categorically today that Iraq had purchased the pipes about which Britain has created a clamor for use in manufacturing guns. He said the pipes were for a petrochemical project. In an interview at noon today with the London-based ITV station, the Independent Third Channel, the Iraqi ambassador added that the British media campaign against Iraq is detrimental to the interests of Britain and British companies. The Iraqi ambassador noted that Iraq can purchase the pipes for the petrochemical project from any other country.

In a separate interview with BBC 1 Television, Ambassador 'Azmi al-Salihi said that Iraq possessed chemical weapons and had announced this publicly. He added that Iraq would not use these weapons against any country in the world; however, Iraq might use them if it was the target of aggression. The Iraqi ambassador stressed that if any country attacks us, we will use all the weapons we have against that country. He noted that the continuation of this campaign against Iraq would not be in the interest of developing relations between the two countries.

The Iraqi ambassador to Britain expressed his regret over the continuation of the British campaign against Iraq. He said in an interview today with the London-based Independent Radio News that the campaign was another link in the series of media and political campaigns against Iraq. He said that this campaign would have a negative impact on relations with Britain, and this impact would affect the interests of the British people and companies. Al-Salihi noted that Iraq was importing these materials for scientific and technological purposes and that all of the imports were licensed.

The Iraqi ambassador in London denied that this campaign and these events would affect Iraq's treatment of the British prisoner, Nurse Daphne Parish. In an interview with British TV station Sky this afternoon, the Iraqi ambassador said that Iraq is treating her humanely and that she was imprisoned because she committed a crime against Iraq.

The Iraqi ambassador reaffirmed that continuing this campaign and deception against Iraq would not serve relations between the two countries; it would expose these relations, particularly trade relations, to difficulties, because these campaigns are harming British companies, and Iraq's reputation is above all suspicion.

Asked about the objective of the media campaign against Iraq, Ambassador al-Salihi said: It paves the way for Israel to embark on an aggression against Iraq.

Radio Continues 'Criticism' of Syrian Regime

JN1204110790

[Editorial Report] Baghdad Voice of the National Alliance in Arabic at 1930-2030 GMT on 12 April continues its criticism of the Syrian regime. In its "News and Views" feature, the radio cites a statement by Syrian People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah that Syria, under the leadership of al-Asad, will remain the stronghold of Arab steadfastness and that it will also struggle for Arab unity and solidarity and foil plots against the Arab nation. Commenting on this statement, the radio says no one believes that "al-Asad and his entire regime," which surrendered al-Qunaytirah to Israel in 1973, carried out the Tadmur prison massacre, and destroyed the city of Hamah, "can do anything for solidarity, unity, steadfastness, confrontation, or anything else, despite their harangues in newspapers and magazines and over the radio and television, and also despite al-Asad's diplomatic moves, which these days are full of feigned concern for all Arabs." The radio concludes by saying the Syrians, "who know everything that al-Asad says or does and who see the danger he poses to the homeland, people, and nation, are the ones who will face the regime and put an end to it."

Baghdad Voice of Iraq in Arabic 1700-1800 GMT carries a partially indistinct commentary refuting claims by an Iraqi minister on the prevalence of security and stability in his country. The commentary says such claims are only a cover for corruption. The radio asks: Does the minister think that his statements will ease the sufferings of Iraqi citizens who are exposed to the "most hideous forms of suppressive and terrorist acts by the security men and lackeys of the black terrorist regime?" In other audible parts of the program, the radio refers to "dictator" Saddam Husayn and to the "murderers and hangmen" of the Iraqi regime.

AL-THAWRAH Comments on Binary Weapons

JN1204100490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Apr (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has asserted that Iraq's scientific and military industrial achievements constitute the legitimate Arab reaction to Washington and Tel Aviv's attempts to intimidate the Arabs.

In an article entitled "The Old Facts and the New Reality," the paper says: What Washington or others say no longer counts. The conclusive fact is that with Iraq, the Arabs have come out of a bottleneck and successfully passed a difficult test. Tel Aviv and its allies must fully understand the new, irreversible facts.

The paper says that the binary chemical weapon is a true, historic development meant to achieve the necessary balance of power and safeguard the interests of the nation and face the American-Zionist scheme, which is more serious than many people think.

AL-THAWRAH derides U.S. talk about world security and stability, pointing out that the United States is the first country in the world to disturb world peace through all means and slogans. The United States aims to master the world, disregarding the criteria of right and justice, and in a manner that directly and effectively helps upset the balance of world peace and security.

The paper explains that from the fifties, Washington turned the Arab region into a field for the Cold War and the struggle with the East Bloc. This is in addition to the U.S. goal of controlling the resources of the Arab land and the will of its people. For this purpose, Washington made the Zionist entity its main weapon and vital central point to create tension and escalate crises to facilitate this dominance. It supplied Tel Aviv with various tools of aggression to achieve this goal.

AL-THAWRAH also points out that Washington supported the Zionist enemy with everything that guaranteed its tendentious superiority in the balance of power. Moreover, it provided this enemy with the technical and technological power necessary to promote its conventional military superiority into "above conventional" and nuclear superiority with a view to "deterring" any Arab intention to change the balance of power or, at least, create a balance.

The paper says that these U.S. practices and others, which are continuing up to this date, deprive Washington of any right to talk about world peace and stability. These facts put the United States in a position of irrevocable condemnation, being the party hostile to the aspirations and security of peoples, including the Arab people.

Military Minister Confers With PRC Official

JN1204142690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Apr (INA)—Husayn Kamil, minister of industry and military industrialization, met here today with Qian Yongchang, PRC minister of communications and head of the PRC side to the joint Iraqi-Chinese committee. They discussed, during the meeting, cooperation between the two countries, particularly industrial cooperation.

Further Reportage on Forming New Government

Shamir on Unity Government

TA1204142690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Rina Mazliah in 'En Hemed on 12 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Matzliah] Mr. Prime Minister, has the Likud been conducting negotiations with various political bodies and parties in recent days?

[Shamir] The Likud has been contacting all elements in the political system. We will conduct negotiations on forming a government only when the Likud representative is entrusted with this task.

[Matzliah] Lately there has been talk about possibly establishing a national unity government with a rotation plan. Is this proposal by SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] members acceptable to you?

[Shamir] No one has proposed this to us. If and when it is proposed, we will look into it.

[Matzliah] Would you also examine such a possibility if Rabin stood at the head of the Alignment?

[Shamir] We will examine every proposal submitted. I do not know what we will accept or what we will reject. At this time, our position is we should set up a Likud-led government.

[Matzliah] Mr. Shamir, did you already know yesterday morning that Verdiger and Mizrahi would not support Peres?

[Shamir] I had heard about it, and I was happy to see that the rumors had been true.

[Matzliah] Thank you, Prime Minister Shamir. [passage omitted] Shamir also said he had no desire to intervene in the Alignment's internal affairs and therefore would not recommend Yitzhaq Rabin replace Shim'on Peres. Shamir, however, said he would be willing to examine all possibilities, stressing that the national unity government was his idea in the first place, and that he had never opposed it. Now, however, the Alignment must propose this to the Likud, which will look into it. Shamir added he nevertheless believed he would be the man to set up the next government in Israel, together with the Likud.

Likud-Liberal Accord Reported

TA1204174190 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Apr 90 p 4

[Text] Three of the four members of the Party for the Advancement of the Zionist Liberal Ideology in Israel—Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i and Knesset Members [MK's] Pinhas Goldstein and Yosi Goldberg —will be incorporated in the Likud list for the 13th Knesset in the same slots they held in the outgoing Knesset.

MK Pesah Grupper, who was No. 34 on the previous Knesset list, will move up to the 32d slot, because of the deaths of Mikha Reiser and Yig'al Kohen. This is one of a series of clauses incorporated in the agreement signed yesterday by the Likud faction and the "Moda'i Force" Liberals, which guaranteed the continued membership of the Liberals in the Likud.

The agreement also ensures that if the Likud forms the next government, Moda'i will be the finance minister, and that an additional "Moda'i Force" MK will be a deputy minister. Another MK of the Moda'i group will be chairman of either the Knesset Finance Committee or the House Committee.

Goldstein stands to serve as a deputy minister, presumably in the Defense Ministry. Grupper is a candidate for the chairmanship of either the Knesset Finance or House committee. Goldberg will be made a member of an important committee. Representatives of the Moda'i faction will be incorporated in various central and local authority institutions according to their relative power.

Although the Party for the Advancement of Zionist Liberal Ideology in Israel will enjoy full independence inside the Likud, it will cast votes according to the stands of the Likud and the Cabinet at Knesset debates. The faction will enjoy a freedom of vote on religious and conscience issues according to whatever will be agreed, with the consent of the Liberal faction, between the Likud and its coalition partners.

The agreement includes an assurance clause designed to ensure the Likud does not move the Liberals from their guaranteed slots when a list of candidates is submitted. Therefore, when the Likud representative submits the candidate list to the election committee, he will be accompanied by a representative of the new faction.

In addition to the above, the agreement stipulates the prime minister will be unable to dismiss any of the faction's ministers, despite the authority to do so vested in him by the law.

The agreement and the commitments accompanying it will become valid in the event a government headed by Yitzhaq Shamir or a government in which the Likud is a partner is formed, or if early Knesset elections are conducted.

On the issue of electoral reform, the faction withdrew its ultimative position. Although the Likud undertakes to see to it the pertinent legislation procedures are concluded within six months, implementation of this clause is subject to the Likud's commitments to other parties. In discussions with the Party for the Advancement of the Zionist Liberal Ideology in Israel, it was learned the Likud had promised Degel Hatora to consult it prior to taking steps toward electoral reform.

The bond guaranteeing the implementation of the agreement is contingent on the approval of the Likud Central Committee, scheduled to convene within 10 days.

The agreement was cosigned by Yitzhaq Shamir, all the Likud ministers, including those who objected to the agreement, and MK Ari'el Sharon.

The parties chose Dr. Amnon Goldberg as an arbiter in the event of disagreements.

Peres on Unity Government

TA1304063690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Telephone interview with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres by Arye Golan—live]

[Text] [Golan] Good morning, sir.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Golan] This morning it seems the structure you have erected is falling apart, and the Likud is about to find its 61st MK: Verdiger, who is again in doubt, or perhaps even Sharir.

[Peres] I am not sure your count is correct, because there are at least two factions that said they will not support a narrow-based government: the NRP [National Religious Party] and SHAS. It is one thing to belong to, let us say, the Likud bloc, and it is another thing to state a government can be established with them. The debates continue, and I believe Mr. Verdiger, who is an honest man and is to some extent responsible for what happened that morning [when the Knesset convened 11 April to vote on the Peres government], will not withdraw his resignation. Everything has its limit. Mr. Mizrahi told me about his decision shortly before the vote. Look, if all is lost, let it be so. I, however, do not see how Mr. Shamir can form a government. This merely is a dream. Not because of me, but because of the whole situation. This whole scene of ministers applying unprecedented pressure while I am in the midst of negotiations, incidently, is unfathomable. I am certain Mr. Sharir will remain in the coalition with us.

[Golan] You know Mr. Sharir last night spoke to a group of Likud Central Committee members in Kokhav Ya'ir and said, and I quote: After all, I am a Likud member who believes in the Likud ideology. I have remained a constraints man.

[Peres] Yes. First of all, Mr. Sharir did not join the Labor Party; he joined us in a coalition because he lost faith in the Likud leadership. Faith is also part of ideology.

Look, in a democratic regime, one rules by one's word; if your word loses its meaning—as we saw in the case of Mr. Moda'i, who presented the condition of a $10 million guarantee, an unprecedented thing.... [changes thought] Mr. Sharir left the Likud before we started negotiations on setting up a government. Do not forget that. He did not join the Labor Party. He maintains his beliefs. He joined a coalition with us. The Likud did the same; all the constraints men were in a coalition with us. They all have served under me when I was prime minister. What is wrong here? Just as there was a coalition of all his friends without him, he also may be with us without them, because they treated him the way they did.

[Golan] Do you believe he will keep his agreement with you?

[Peres] I spoke with him yesterday, and I have no reason to believe otherwise.

[Golan] From all this it seems the chances of forming a national unity government are growing. Mr. Shamir was asked yesterday and publicly expressed his willingness to join it, and said it depends on you, Mr. Peres .

[Peres] Look, again we are trying to avoid the issues by dealing with procedures. The real problem is whether Israel will be rescued from the sea of dangers it is in. I have a deep appreciation for the Lubavitcher rabbi, but we, too, have done a little for the security of the state. We believe through intelligent and wise political moves, we will be able to rescue Israel from its misfortunes. By responsible and wise political moves, we will ensure aliyah. For some reason, people believe the seat is the ideology: How to attain this seat; how to hold on to it; how the seats are arranged. This is not the case. We did not leave the government because it was broad or narrow or because we wanted to change seats. We did so because this was the third time they tried to put an end to the process of rescuing us from an unnecessary political situation.

[Golan] If I may put your words into the language of negotiations on a national unity government, which have not started yet, do you mean you will definitely demand an arrangement for rotating the premiership be introduced and that a positive reply to Baker be given as opening conditions?

[Peres] We will stand firm on the political issue. It is inconceivable we will give up regarding the political issue; we left the government because of it.

[Golan] What about the rotation?

[Peres] I believe it was a mistake we did not have rotation the first time around. Do not forget we are the largest Knesset faction today, and there was rotation in the past. We moved hastily regarding that in the past, but it is unimportant now. The main thing is the peace process, and I will not be impressed by the various moral preachers, because I believe the most moral thing facing us today is to rescue ourselves from a dangerous situation without hurting the security of the land and the state and to give the young generation some hope.

What will he do? Let us say Shamir establishes a narrow-based government. Will he say no to Baker and yes to the settlements, and the whole world will applaud? What are we talking about? I do not understand the perspective of such talk. What can such a government do? Will it will lead Israel to a dead end?

[Golan] So, we now must wait for further developments in the Likud....

[Peres, interrupting] Look, I want to tell you one thing: I intend to go on struggling. This is not a personal struggle for me, nor am I fighting for a seat. Furthermore, this is no theater play. The question is not whether it looks good, whether the curtain is up or down. The way I see it, this is a serious struggle. I also believe the difficulties exist not because democracy in Israel is defective—which it certainly is—but because we have gotten into a situation where a historic decision must be made. We should not be afraid to make a historic decision, because not making it also will create a negative history for Israel.

I call on all the people to see the important things. I am for changing the electoral system; I voted for it in the past, and I will do so in the future. I, incidentally, do not see a chance for that, because there is no Knesset majority for it, but this is a different issue. The main problem today and now is that we may be isolating ourselves, and that we might find ourselves alone, as we never were before. With all due respect to the Lubavitcher rabbi, isolation is part of Israel's security problem. I do not know that if we say no to the whole world, the messiah will come. We ourselves must make brave decisions and see what is important and not be diverted to side issues.

[Golan] Mr. Peres, I thank you very much.

[Peres] Thank you.

Verdiger Withdraws Resignation

TA1304065290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] MK Avraham Verdiger has announced he is retracting his resignation from the Knesset. Speaking to our correspondent, he said he already canceled his resignation, orally and in writing, last night. According to him, the reason for his move is the heartfelt calls addressed to him by Jewish sages and the new situation created by the extension the president granted Shim'on Peres. He noted the heartfelt calls from Jewish sages, as he put it, expressed concern over the future of Eretz Yisra'el. Avraham Verdiger expressed the hope these calls will serve as the breakthrough that will unite the camp and added, in a vague hint, that the Agudat Yisra'el faction is subordinate to the Council of Torah Sages.

Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports the news of Verdiger's change of heart came as a shock to Agudat Yisra'el. The Alignnment negotiating team will convene in about two hours.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT in a 90-minute newsreel on 13 April provides a review of the current state of affairs by its political correspondent Yaron Deqel, who says: "If Verdiger stays in the Knesset it will be to support the Likud," as "it was Likud figures who yesterday convinced him to stay." Deqel adds that this means "he will not support a government headed by Shim'on Peres."]

MK Porush on Verdiger

TA1304092690 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Telephone interview with Agudat Yisra'el MK Menahem Porush by party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel on 13 April—recorded]

[Text] [Deqel] Good day, MK Menahem Porush. What is your reaction to MK Verdiger's move?

[Porush] This is not the final word. We live in a time of fast-breaking developments, and more are expected. I have no doubt this is not the last word.

[Deqel] I would like to ask you whether Avraham Verdiger will raise his hand in support of a Peres-led government.

[Porush] I am telling you he will do whatever the Council of Torah Sages decides. If he personally will not be able to do so, he will resign.

[Deqel] Meaning if Shim'on Peres comes with a government, and Avraham Verdiger is the last barrier, he simply will resign from the Knesset?

[Porush] Yes, yes, yes.

[Deqel] Has Verdiger agreed to that?

[Porush] I have known Rabbi Verdiger for a long time. He is an honest man who is loyal to his party. His party, Po'aley Agudat Yisra'el, also has decided there will be party discipline, and that it will obey the Council of Torah Sages. I, therefore, am certain his resignation and retraction was made because he wanted to have some influence. This, however, does not change our position.

[Deqel] Meaning Peres has at least four votes from Aguda?

[Porush] Yes.

[Deqel] Including Verdiger?

[Porush] It is not the names, but the number that counts.

[Deqel] It is four?

[Porush] We will see. Surprises can be expected.

[Deqel] Thank you, Rabbi Porush.

[Porush] Thank you.

Paper on Peres' 'Failure'

TA1204145890 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 12 Apr 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "And Israel Is Running Around Itself!"]

[Text] Following the failure of Israeli Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres to form a government, the political situation in Israel again resembles a feather facing a storm. We were not surprised by the outcome of yesterday's rapid events. As is his custom, Peres started by issuing statement after statement about his acceptance of U.S. Secretary of State Baker's plan and about the proposed tripartite meeting between Washington, Cairo, and Tel Aviv aimed at preparing the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. There is no doubt these intensive statements aggravated the situation and scared some right-wing parties that had promised to support Peres in the Knesset, particularly the religious parties, which are well-known for their support of the extreme right- wing Likud Party!

It is true it was the religious parties that brought down Yitzhaq Shamir's government, but by this they were "taking revenge" from Shamir, who " betrayed" them when he formed his government more than a year ago. After reaching agreement with these parties on forming a government, Shamir turned around and formed a coalition government with the Labor Party! But now, having taught Shamir a lesson, it is not improbable the religious parties will return to their main positions.

The situation in Israel now is open to all possibilities, despite the fact Israeli President Hayim Herzog granted Peres 15 days to form a government. After this period expires, Herzog might return to Shamir and give him a chance to form a government if the former fails in this task, or he might give Rabin or Arens a chance to form a goverament, and so forth. But all these possibilities are to no avail. The conflict is inside Israeli society, which is passing through an extremely difficult, critical period. There is no consensus within the country about what the Israeli people want.

The choices are difficult. The Israelis have lost the compass that guides them toward a secure future. Do they want to continue their domination of and impose their will over another people? Will they recognize the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights, foremost of which is the right to self-determination? Will they recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and negotiate with it on this basis? Will they accept the principle of giving up land for peace?

These are the questions that tear apart the Israeli people and render their burden heavier, particularly since the Palestinian people's intifadah has awakened the Israelis to the reality that the situation is not as they thought—that the Palestinians are a gentle and meek people who accept the occupation, and that there is no cause for fear that they would rebel and reject all these notions. There is total unanimity that the Palestinian people's rejection of the occupation, which has been expressed through the intifadah, has had the greatest effect in the deterioration of the situation within Israeli society.

Let us return to Peres and his failure, until now, to form the new government. It is certain Peres killed with his own hands the chances of his success by talking too much about his future plans for achieving a settlement. This reminds us of what Peres did a few years ago when he kept playing on a tune—the name of which he devised—that is, the "Jordanian option," until he rendered this tune meaningless and it was rejected, not only by the Palestinian people, but the entire Arab nation, headed by Jordan. We ask: Is this the end of the road for Peres, who has been stranded by Israeli politics, and will he now let others lead his party and the new government?

Shamir, Arens Discuss Peace, Iraq With Senators

TA1304105890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has pledged to pursue the peace process after he forms a government. Shamir made these remarks in a meeting with visiting U.S. senators. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

The group of U.S. senators devoted a vast part of its meetings in Jerusalem to the peace process, allowing the Iraqi threat to remain a marginal issue. The senators wished to hear about the fate of the peace process. Prime Minister Shamir explained that at this moment, in the midst of a political crisis in Israel, progress is impossible in this sphere. Shamir promised, however, that when a new government is formed in Israel, he will adhere to his commitment to promote the peace process. We understand the latter remarks to signify Shamir intends to form the next government.

The prime minister told the senators delegation, led by Robert Dole, that Israel is concerned about the threats coming from Arab countries, chiefly Iraq. He thanked the U.S. Administration and people for their assistance on the issue of Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel.

Earlier, the delegation met with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. Arens said when Saddam Husayn used chemical weapons in the past, the world voiced no protest. Now, said Arens, he is threatening again, and the world must not allow him to get away with it, as this would legitimize any future use of chemical weapons.

Peres To Meet Mubarak, Others in Egypt 23 May

TA1304103290 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 Apr 90 p 1

[By special correspondent in Cairo Smadar Peri]

[Text] Regardless of whether Shim'on Peres is successful in forming a government, he will meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian high echelons in a few weeks.

Peres has been invited to visit Egypt on 23 May, where he is to attend the Socialist International, which will convene in Cairo for the first time. The convention will last two days.

Last night, YEDI'OT AHARONOT's special correspondent in Cairo learned that President Mubarak, who also is the leader of the ruling National Democratic Party, will meet with Peres outside the convention's events. In addition, meetings have been scheduled for Peres with party Deputy Chairman Dr. Mustafa Khalil and with Egyptian Agriculture Minister Dr. Yusuf Wali.

Christian Quarter Protests Jewish Settlement

Police Disperse Demonstrators

TA1204103090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] The patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church fell and later mildly suffered from tear gas inhalation during the dispersal of a demonstration in the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that approximately 200 monks, headed by Patriarch Diodoros I, conducted a procession from the Greek Orthodox Church to the building where about 20 Jewish families settled in yesterday. The monks distributed flyers, and one of them removed a sign in Hebrew that had been placed there.

The police used force to disperse the demonstrators and fired tear gas canisters. During the ruckus, the patriarch fell down and one of the gold crosses on his chest was broken. Faysal al-Husayni and Sari Nusaybah also participated in the demonstration. The demonstrators fled into the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, while tear gas was fired outside the church. The police deployed large forces in the Old City, and stones were hurled at policemen in several locations.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports three suspects were arrested. Tense quiet now prevails in the area, and the Latin Patriarch Michel Sabah has arrived at the scene. A charge exploded this morning at a hitchhiker pickup station at the Holon junction. There were no casualties. A correspondent from the NEWS AGENCY OF THE ASSOCIATED ISRAELI PRESS, LTD. reported that the police have launched searches.

Jews Settle Despite Opposition

TA1204102090 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Apr 90 p 1

[By Ron Kampeas and Hayim Shapira]

[Excerpt] One hundred and fifty Jews yesterday moved into buildings in the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City which the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate claims as its own, as local residents demonstrated and burned tyres.

Bishop Timothy, secretary to Greek Orthodox Patriach Diodoros, described the move as a "violation of the status quo on church property."

The settlers, calling themselves Ne'ot David, are affiliated with the 'Ateret Kohanim Yeshiva in the Moslem Quarter, which has settled Jews in that quarter for more than 15 years.

The Christian Quarter buildings are in the Eftimios Market, between the Greek Convent of St. John and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

The settlers say their proximity to the Jewish Quarter will "create a flow of Jewish settlement from the walls of the city to the Western Wall." [passage omitted]

Ordered To Evacuate Building

TA1204195090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] The Jerusalem magistrate's court tonight issued an order instructing Jews who had settled in a Christian Quarter building to evacuate it. The court determined the building is the property of the Greek Orthodox Church.

Our police affairs correspondent Yaron Toren reports senior officers of the Police Southern District and the Jerusalem Police now are consulting on carrying out the court's ruling. It is believed the evacuation will be carried out tonight.

Agency To Launch 'Huge' Satellite in 2 Years

TA1204164390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] The Israel Space Agency in two years will launch a huge scientific satellite containing three of the most sophisticated telescopes in the world, Professor 'Aqiva Bin-Nun, the agency's coordinator said.

The telescopes will be capable of uncovering millions of unknown stars and thousands of galaxies. U.S. institutions are showing great interest in the Israeli scientific satellite and are prepared to help with funds, sophisticated equipment, and ground stations to collect the data from space.

Prof. Bin-Nun said the Israel Space Agency has commercial agreements with large companies over the Amos communications satellite, which will be launched in the near future. Amos will be launched to an altitude of 36,000 km via a European Space Agency rocket.

Delegation Continues Visit; Presence Protested

JN1204091590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12-13 Apr 90 pp 1, 5

[By Maryam Shahin and P.V. Vivekanand]

[Excerpts] Amman—Any decision which does not conform with the reality that Arab Jerusalem is part of Arab territories occupied by force by Israel in 1967 is beyond the framework of international legitimacy and the use of the Holy City in any political game is a dangerous tampering with peace, His Majesty King Husayn on Wednesday told a team of visiting American senators.

The senators, who paid an overnight visit to Jordan, were later greeted with a "welcome/silent" protest against the U.S. Senate's recent adoption of a resolution recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

In his meeting with the Senate team, led by Senate minority (Republican) leader Robert Dole of Kansas, the king said: "Jerusalem was a symbol of peace and it should remain so."

"Jerusalem is an integral part of the Arab territories occupied (by Israel) in the 1967 war," the King was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra. "any decision concerning Jerusalem which does not conform with this reality violates international legitimacy."

"Using Jerusalem in the political game is a dangerous tampering with peace," the King warned. [passage omitted]

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan also met with the American delegation and outlined Jordan's position on efforts for peace in the region and its support for the rights of the Palestinian people in their national soil, the agency said. The Crown Prince also explained the dangers inherent in Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and their settlement in the occupied territories.

Following the meetings at the Royal Palace, the senators and their wives proceeded to Amman Marriott Hotel where they were greeted by a candle-lit vigil of about 200 people—some of them wearing colourful Palestinian dresses and holding placards. The otherwise silent protest was marred only by a short spell of booing which some people said was sparked by a comment by one of the senators that "Jerusalem is Israeli and is united" apparently in reply to the banners which proclaimed "Jerusalem is holy to Muslims, Christians and Jews."

It was immediately clear which of the senators made the remark. According to several members of the protest group, including Dawud Sulayman, a former member of parliament, the comment came from Howard Metzenbaum, a Democrat from Ohio and a staunch supporter of Israel. Haj Zaki al-Ghul, a member of Jerusalem municipality, said it could have been Metzenbaum but he could not be sure. There was no independent confirmation of the incident. No American official could be immediately reached for comment.

Among the slogans painted on banners hoisted outside by the protest group, which included many children wearing the Palestinian chequered headcloth, were: "Acknowledgement of Jerusalem as capital of Israel equals declaration of war"; "Playing with Jerusalem is playing with fire"; "Bush courageous, Senate outrageous;" "U.S. Senate resolution violates U.S. constitution"; "Be free of the Israeli lobby;" and "Israeli lobby dictates, American people pay." [passage omitted]

Inside the hotel lobby, the senators held a brief meeting wih six representatives of the protest group, organised by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) Jordan Chapter. [passage omitted]

A two-page memorandum, which described the resolution as confirming the American Senate's "Discrimination against Arabs" and enflaming the "sentiments of both Christians and Muslims who also rightly believe Jerusalem to be their holy city as well," was accepted by the senators. The memorandum also pointed out that the resolution constituted a "grave injustice" and urged the Senate to "rescind...its politically motivated resolution."

When it was requested of Dole that a copy of the memo be conveyed to President George Bush, Dole threw off an over-the-shoulder reply: "He doesn't need a copy." It was not clear what the Senate minority leader meant by his remark.

Outside the lobby, meanwhile, the reported comment by one of the senators that Jerusalem was Israeli and what some saw as the "cold-shoulder attitude of the senators" appeared to have kicked up a controversy and threatened to undermine the otherwise "diplomatic atmosphere."

"We have been taught to believe that America stood for fairness and democracy," said al-Ghul. "What we saw and heard here today proves that it is not so. The senators obviously came here with the preconceived idea that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel as the gentleman said at the entrance. So, I really do not know why they bothered to come." [passage omitted]

In his curt, brief exchange with the representatives of the protest group, Dole said the American and Jordanian governments had "very strong relations." He reaffirmed that the appeal of the group was "the same that we heard from the King" in the meeting earlier in the evening. "We are hoping for peace in the region." he said. [passage ommitted]

Editorial Criticizes U.S. Senate, Praises Dole

JN1204092890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Apr 90 pp 1, 15

[Text] While our doors will always remain wide open to every guest and while we are ready to hold any dialogue,

or argument with the best of intentions, we find ourselves today welcoming the visiting U.S. Senate delegation and, at the same time, in the process of carrying out a new round of the dialogue of the deaf with respect to a task that we know in advance will be futile.

We say these bitter words and reach such a regrettable conclusion without having to open the file replete with hostility to basic Arab rights and without having to remind the visiting Senators of their policies which are completely biased in favor of Israeli wrongdoing and which persistently oppose any peaceful initiative.

The recent decision the U.S. Senate reached on Jerusalem is still fresh in our minds, and millions of Arabs and Muslims are still stunned by this decision through which Congress has given Israel a right that Congress has no authority to grant, and which does not fall within its immediate legislative prerogatives.

The roar of the unjust American campaign against Iraq, and the beating down of legitimate Iraqi defense capabilities are still echoing in our ears. This has made Israel assume that the road is paved and the political atmosphere propitious for a new blow against fraternal Iraq.

In view of all this, we feel a lump in our throats and our hearts skip a beat when we listen to the U.S. Senators speak to us in detail about U.S. efforts to attain peace in the Middle East, especially since we know from long experience that these gentlemen will change the tone of their voices and their political statements when they return to Washington.

In spite of all this, we can see emerging from this overt U.S. bias and from Congress' adamant bias toward Israel a position that can be described as somewhat fair and objective: that position voiced by Senator Robert Dole who once proposed reducing the huge U.S. assistance to Israel.

The Arabs and Muslims have come to feel that the U.S. Congress is another Knesset, if not a more extremist one, and that many of the U.S. legislators have sold their souls to Zionism and have given in to its dictates, while a handful, including Senator Dole, still have U.S. interests at heart and seek to preserve the prestige and political credibility Washington still enjoys, particularly in this region of the world.

Unionists Planning March to King Husayn Bridge

JN1204165590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12-13 Apr 90 p 3

[By Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—Jordanian and Arab Trade Unionists are in the process of organizing a march to the Jordan River demanding the "right of return for Palestinians to their homeland," president of the Jordanian Professional Association said Wednesday [11 April].

Dr. Mamduh al-'Abbadi, president of the Jordan Medical Association and of the Council of Jordanian Professional Associations said a five-kilometre march would take more than 200 heads of Arab professional unions and up to 5,000 other marchers from a "village in the Jordan Valley to the King Husayn Bridge" May 14.

May 15 commemorates the date on which Israel declared itself a state on parts of Palestine.

"Over 5,000 members of Arab professional associations and unions are expected to take part in a two-day trade union conference in Amman, May 12 and 13." Following the conference the march will take place," al-'Abbadi said at a press conference Wednesday.

He said that the Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel, ways to support the 28-month-old [as received] Palestinian intifadah in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and human rights would be the main items on the agenda of the conference.

Al-'Abbadi said that in his capacity as head of the Council of Jordanian Professional Associations he had invited colleagues from all Arab countries to participate in the three-day activities.

Al-'Abbadi said that Prime Minister Mudar Badran had personally authorized the May 14 march and had initially suggested that the union march join an international peace march being arranged by the Amman chapter of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), which was also scheduled for May 14.

"We will not be joining the ADC in their march because the aim of the two marches differ," al-'Abbadi told reporters. "While the ADC's five-day march would concentrate on 'peace and two-state solution slogans', the union march would stress 'the right of Palestinians to return to their homeland'," al-'Abbadi said.

The five-day ADC march is now scheduled to take place from June 1 to 5 commemorating the 1967 Arab-Israeli war in which Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Organizers at the ADC said that the change in date had nothing to do with any difference of opinion with the unions.

Al-'Abbadi, who is president of the Jordanian Popular Committee for the Support of the Intifadah, said that the committee had raised twice as much in the first quarter of 1990 as in the previous two years. He said the committee had raised up to JD [Jordanian dinars] 600,000 by the end of March 1990. He added that in the first quarters of 1988 and 1989 only one half of that had been collected.

The figure does not include the amount of money raised during the week-long national fund-raising campaign, which lasted from March 22 through 29.

Al-'Abbadi said that he expected the amount raised during the fund-raising week to exceed JD 200,000. "During the first two years of the intifadah the committee had raised JD 3 million," al-'Abbadi said.

Aide Wounded in Ja'ja' Assassination Attempt

NC1304104390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0944 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Beirut, 13 Apr (MENA)—The Lebanese paper AL-LIWA' reports that an attempt was made two days ago to assassinate Dr. Samir Ja'ja', commander of the Lebanese Forces Christian militia. Citing security reports, the paper adds that one of Ja'ja's aides was wounded during the attempt, the details of which have not been divulged.

Al-Hirawi on Extending State Authority in E. Areas

NC1204170590 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has emphasized that the legitimate government is capable of entering into the eastern areas to put an end to fragmentation. He noted that this will be done peacefully by extending the state's sovereignty over these areas.

In an interview with the Bahrain-based AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ newspaper, President al-Hirawi said that peaceful entry specifically means bringing the eastern area under the state's authority and ending the fighting, without taking part in the clashes as a third party. He called on General Michel 'Awn and Samir Ja'ja' to settle their dispute on the basis of the al-Ta'if accord, noting that any settlement must proceed from recognition of the national reconciliation document as the appropriate solution for the country. He appealed to those who want to amend this document to come to the negotiating table.

Further on Al-Hirawi Interview

JN1304102290 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Apr 90 p 14

[Interview with President Ilyas al-Hirawi by Bari'ah 'Alam-al-Din in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] ['Alam-al-Din] Your Excellency the President, the current situation in the country—from the fighting between General 'Awn and the Lebanese Forces in East Beirut to the fighting between Amal and Hizballah in the suburb and Iqlim al-Tuffah—supports the view that the design to fragment the sects by instigating battles within these sects and with others is continuing in preparation for abolishing Lebanon as a state or peddling a Middle Eastern settlement at the expense of its territory and existence. How do you, as the authority, deal with such a possibility?

[al-Hirawi] The situation in the eastern area is the outcome of the excessive wagering of those who oppose the legitimate authority on the national accord document approved by the Lebanese parliamentarians in al-Ta'if. This document provides for internal reforms and redeploying the Syrian forces in Lebanon in accordance with security plans to help the legitimate Lebanese authority restore state institutions and to extend sovereignty by means of its own forces throughout Lebanon and through the disbanding of militias as part of a comprehensive national peace plan. The fragmentation we are talking about is the outcome of the rebellious clique's unawareness that the peace march which began after the election of a president and formation of a national unity government will not be halted by the personal ambitions that wrecked the eastern area, which this clique claims to be defending.

As a legitimate authority, we are capable of putting an end to this fragmentation by extending the state's authority to this area and rebuilding what has been destroyed so that all of Lebanon can reemerge from the ashes as the homeland of affection, peace, and economic and cultural prosperity.

['Alam-al-Din] You are talking about putting an end to this fragmentation. Does this mean you have actually made the decision to intervene in the eastern areas? If a decision has been made, what forces will carry it out and on what basis?

[al-Hirawi] Our decision is not to intervene in the eastern areas, but to enter them peacefully to end the meaningless conflicts that have demolished them. Peaceful entry specifically means restoring the state's authority to this area and ending the fighting without taking part in the battles as a third party.

['Alam-al-Din] But people can no longer tolerate this destructive war and wonder when the legitimate authority will enter their areas peacefully in order to put an end to what is taking place there and to move with the country toward a comprehensive solution and durable peace.

[al-Hirawi] In my eyes, this has become very imminent, more than you imagine. [passage omitted]

['Alam-al-Din] Did you receive messages from Gen. 'Awn like those he sent to the leaders of the tripartite Arab committee member states and the Arab League secretary general?

[al-Hirawi] Allow me not to answer this question, because I am not prepared to receive such messages.

['Alam-al-Din] In your view, when does it become acceptable to seriously look for a settlement by which Gen. 'Awn and Dr. Ja'ja' will be represented in an expanded government? What are the conditions for that?

[al-Hirawi] Any settlement with Gen. 'Awn and Dr. Ja'ja' must be based on their recognition that the national accord document approved by the deputies in al-Ta'if is the appropriate solution for the country. By this recognition, 'Awn ends his rebellion against the legitimate authority and submits to it, and Ja'ja' accepts the al-Ta'if agreement's articles which provide for disbanding the militias and extending the state's authority

over all the Lebanese territory. Then, there would be no harm in discussing political issues with any party. [passage omitted]

['Alam-al-Din] A question to be addressed for the first time to the president of the republic; it is about the hostages. Do you have information or knowledge about the current contacts on the foreign hostages?

[al-Hirawi] The hostage issue is linked with the tense U.S.-Iranian relations, which have been so since the eruption of the Islamic revolution in Iran. Resolving this issue depends on the success of the current talks to settle the problems between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Arab Committee Envoy Ibrahimi Arrives 12 Apr

NC1204183590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] In Damascus today, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'and Lakhdar Ibrahimi, envoy of the Higher Arab Committee, discussed the Lebanese situation.

The Syrian news agency said Ibrahimi reviewed the outcome of the Arab tripartite committee's meetings and contacts concerning the implementation of the al-Ta'if accord. It was emphasized, the agency added, that the al-Ta'if accord is the solution that will serve to unify of Lebanese territories, people, and institutions and which will enhance the role of the legitimate authority.

Ibrahimi arrived in Beirut this evening. He is scheduled to meet [words indistinct] with Dr. Salim al-Huss at 2000 today.

Confers With Al-Huss

NC1204202690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Lakhdar Ibrahimi, envoy of the Higher Arab Committee, met with Prime Minister Dr. Sali' al-Huss this evening to discuss current developments. Ibrahimi briefed al-Huss on the outcome of the Arab ministerial committee's moves regarding Lebanon. Ibrahimi is scheduled to meet [word indistinct] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni. [passage omitted]

Comments on Al-Huss Meeting

NC1304065390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi arrived in Beirut yesterday, bringing with him a new concept the Arab tripartite committee adopted during its meetings in Rabat to speed up the implementation of the al-Ta'if accord and eliminate all obstacles to its implementation in the eastern area.

Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss received Ibrahimi yesterday evening. Commenting as he left the minister's house, Ibrahimi denied that the Arab tripartite committee had asked Syria to implement al-Ta'if agreement without waiting for General Michel 'Awn to leave B'abda Palace.

Ibrahimi said: What took place in Rabat was that we held a fraternal meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' during which we discussed the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement and Syria's role in this respect.

Ibrahimi added: Syria is present in Lebanon and is committed to al-Ta'if agreement. Syria is doing all it can to help end the crisis and enable Lebanon to emerge from its tragedy.

Discussing the purpose of his visit to Lebanon, Ibrahimi said that it is to hold consultations with the government on the progress it has achieved and what we must do in the coming phase.

Ibrahimi said that he briefed Prime Minister al-Huss on the tripartite committee's report on the situation in Lebanon. He emphasized that the Vatican has been contacted about dealing with the Lebanese situation.

Ibrahimi then went to the residence of Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni. He and al-Husayni held a meeting which lasted well into the night.

Ibrahimi is scheduled to continue his consultations with Lebanese officials, including the president of the republic, today.

3 Fedayeen Killed in Clash With Israeli Gunboat

NC1304091990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] According to security sources, a fedayeen group attempted to infiltrate Israel near the southern coastal city of Tyre at dawn today. The group clashed with an Israeli naval gunboat. Three fedayeen were killed and another wounded in the clash.

The sources added that an Israeli gunboat intercepted the rubber dinghy carrying the four fedayeen. A clash lasting between two and three hours ensued off the shore of the al-Rashidiyah camp for Palestinian refugees.

Eyewitnesses said that they have seen the rubber dinghy floating on the surface in an area south of the al-Rashidiyah camp.

Palestinian sources declined to discuss the operation or the identity of the attackers. The Palestinian sources said that a state of alert has been declared in al-Rashsidiyah camp.

Further on Israeli Gunboats

NC1304110490 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] According to reports received from the south, Israeli gunboats bombarded the al-Rashidiyah camp near Tyre at dawn today. They also fired flares over the camp. Meanwhile, Israeli helicopters continuously flew over the western and central sectors of south Lebanon last night.

Israeli Forces Expel Farmers, Arrest 6 in South

NC1304084490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Excerpts] According to security reports from the South, Israeli occupation forces carried out their threats against the inhabitants of the Ghusta and Fashkul farms in the Shab'a area yesterday morning. These forces expelled the farms' inhabitants together with their cattle and belongings to Shab'a. The occupation forces then threw up a security cordon around the area and began to encircle it with barbed wire and to annex the two farms to the occupied territory.

The enemy forces told the expelled inhabitants that they will open fire without warning at any person who approaches the area. The area of the two farms is 60 donums. The expelled persons are Husayn Sa'b, Muhammad Zahrah, Mustafa Dilli, and Husayn al-Jalil and their families.

The occupation forces and their agent militia stormed the town of al-Habbariyah in al-'Urqub two nights ago and arrested six citizens, including Nabil and Ahmad Barakat, brothers of resistance fighter Salim Barakat who was martyred during a confrontation with Agent Lahd's militia on the Hasbayya-Kawkaba-Marj 'Uyun road two days ago. They took the six detainees to the al-Khiyam prison. [passage omitted]

In another development, enemy forces shelled the town of Zibqin, causing serious property damage. Meanwhile, the national resistance has declared that one of its groups ambushed a vehicle belonging to the agents' intelligence personnel on the Anan-Bisri road. Resistance fighters opened fire and threw hand grenades at the vehicle, causing a number of casualties.

A resistance group also shelled a position held by agent Lahd's militia on the outskirts of the town of Ramiyah in the occupied border strip. Resistance sources said that one agent was killed and another seriously wounded.

Jabal Lubran Commander at 'Amshit Barracks

NC1304084090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] As part of the response to the Lebanese Forces' initiative, Staff Brigadier General Elie Hayik, commander of the military area of Jabal Lubran, took over the 'Amshit barracks at an official military ceremony yesterday. Hayik arrived at the 'Amshit barracks at 1000 yesterday, accompanied by some officers of the Army command. He was received by Colonel Paul Faris at the entrance to the barracks where a military unit also saluted him. Hayik was introduced to and shook hands with the officers at the barracks. He later held a meeting with the officers during which he and Faris made speeches.

Hayik will take over other barracks in the Jubayl and Kasrawan areas today. He will then prepare a report to be submitted to the Army command on these barracks and their military personnel.

Lebanese Forces Releases Five Detainees

NC1204105590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] In a significant, positive move which confirms the Lebanese Forces' openness to the authority, the Lebanese Forces today released five detainees which it had been holding on various security charges. The Lebanese Forces made this decision unilaterally on the orders of Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' as a humanitarian gesture on the occasion of the current holidays. The detainees were set free at the headquarters of the Lebanese Forces command in al-Karantinah at noon today. They were handed over to Bishop Khalil Abi-Nadir and Red Cross representatives. The released detainees will be taken to West Beirut where they will be handed over to their relatives.

'Terrorist' Killed in Preparing Explosive Device

TA1104152790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] A terrorist was killed before dawn while preparing a large explosive device in the eastern sector of the security zone in southern Lebanon. A South Lebanese Army patrol discovered the terrorist and the remains of the explosives beside him.

Syria To Defend Arabs in 'Zionist Aggression'

JN1204142590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Since the Corrective Movement in 1970, leader al-Asad has been making untiring efforts to unify the Arabs and establish an effective solidarity to enable our nation to confront the schemes of the enemies and covetous ones and to restore our nation's status among the vigorous and effective nations in history and culture. One can rarely find a statement or speech by leader al-Asad that is void of a call for reviving Arab capabilities and warning against the gravity of being dragged behind false external solutions. He has affirmed the importance of self-reliance and the need to make our essential and fateful conflict with the Zionists predominate over any other disagreement.

Any other disagreement is minor when compared to the battle over existence waged by the Arab nation against the expansionist Zionist invaders. Leader al-Asad has frequently asserted that the Arab nation is not less powerful than other nations that showed determination and fought until they managed to wrench their rights and impose their sovereignty over their land. Besides, the Arab nation's resources exceed those of many nations that have restored their status in the world, thanks to their relentless struggle and reliance on their intrinsic resources.

Arab solidarity has been the overwhelming preoccupation of leader al-Asad at all Arab summits and conferences for the last 20 years. If we review the deliberations conducted during these summits, we find the Syrian position has been consistent and continuous. This position provides for avoiding marginal conflicts and focusing every effort to confront Israel. The Zionist danger threatens the entire Arab existence, and this danger spares no Arab country. Events have proved this position sound. The Zionist danger is escalating, and the threats of aggression have even included Arabs who imagined they were safe from any threats.

Needless to say, Syria, which has built a force for the Arabs and is eager to exploit this force in favor of the Arab issues, did not and will never hesitate for one moment to defend any Arab country that comes under Zionist aggression, based on the nation's unity and common destiny. Whatever afflicts an Arab country afflicts us. Our nation is one nation, and defending it is a pan-Arab responsibility that cannot be matched by any other responsibility. This is the guideline Syria has drawn for itself for 20 years. Syria did not and never will deviate from this guideline. Leader al-Asad very recently urged the Arabs to rise to the level of their supreme responsibilities, to overcome trivial differences, and to confront the sweeping Zionist danger. He declared that as in the past, Syria will continue, now and tomorrow, to be concerned about the nation's dignity and will offer unlimited sacrifices for its sake.

Because the Zionist danger has become too serious to be ignored or neglected, leader al-Asad sounded the alarm, reiterating the call for unity and solidarity. International changes require that the Arabs reconsider their stance, revive their history and glories, and be welded into one entity. This is especially since the defenders of the Israeli enemy have never stopped supplying it with all weapons of annihilation and destruction, and these defenders cause a great uproar when Arabs seek to possess means to defend themselves. Meanwhile, they say nothing about Israel's nuclear arsenal and refusal to join the treaty on nonproliferation of this horrible destructive weapon. It seems there is a growing Arab feeling about the need to turn the chapter of the past and head toward the future with joint Arab determination to confront the dangers and challenges facing the Arab nation. With sisterly Egypt, Syria waged the glorious October war, which then caused a real earthquake in the enemy entity. Syria also exploited that war to revive Arab strength and capability and managed then to achieve an effective solidarity. Today, Syria is extending a sincere hand to Arab brothers to revive solidarity, to discuss means to confront the grave dangers, and to draw up a unified strategy to confront that of the enemy and its defenders which seeks to establish Greater Israel, double the size of the Zionist entity, and consequently, increase the enemy's aggressive intentions and ambitions over Arab territory and resources.

Israel is a treacherous enemy. Whether it is led by Peres or Shamir, it will remain the expansionist, bloodthirsty Israel that usurps rights. As for the defenders of Israel, there is nothing to indicate they will be anything in the future but Israel's defenders who seek to deprive the Arabs of means of strength and prevent them from acquiring deterrence weapons. At the same time, they continue to supply the enemy with all types of weapons and turn a blind eye to its nuclear and biological warfare activities.

Al-Asad Sets 22 May for Legislative Elections

JN1304073190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 13 Apr 90

["Decree No. 62 of 1990"]

[Text] In implementation of Clause 52 of the Constitution, and based on the terms of Legislative Decree No. 26 of 14 April 1973 and its amendments, which include the law on general elections, the president of the Republic decrees:

Clause 1: Tuesday, 27 Shawwal 1410 Hegira, corresponding to 22 May 1990, shall be the date for electing the People's Assembly members for the fifth legislative term 1990.

Clause 2: The number of the People's Assembly seats allocated to workers and peasants, and for other sectors of the people, shall be as follows:

Province of Damascus: The number of constituency members: 29. The number allocated to workers and peasants: 10. The number for other sectors of the people: 19.

Province of Damascus Rural Area: The number of constituency members: 19. The number allocated to workers and peasants: 10. The number for other sectors of the people: 9.

The City of Aleppo: The number of constituency members: 20. The number allocated to workers and peasants: 7. The number for other sectors of the people: 13.

Other Areas in the Province of Halab: The number of constituency members: 32. The number for workers and peasants: 17. The number for other sectors of the people: 15.

Province of Hims: The number of constituency members: 23. The number allocated to workers and peasants: 11. The number for other sectors of the people: 12.

Province of Hamah: The number of constituency members: 22. The number for workers and peasants: 13. The number for other sectors of the people: 9.

Province of al-Ladhiqiyah: The number of constituency members: 17. The number allocated to workers and peasants: 9. The number for other sectors of the people: 8.

Province of Idlib: The number of constituency members: 18. The number allocated to workers and peasants: 12. The number for other sectors of the people: 6.

Province of Tartus: The number of constituency members: 13. The number allocated to workers and peasants: 6. The number for other sectors of the people: 7.

Province of al-Raqqah: The number of constituency members: 8. The number allocated to workers and peasants: 4. The number for other sectors of the people: 4.

Province of Dayr al-Zawr: The number of constituency members: 14. The number allocated to workers and peasants: 8. The number for other sectors of the people: 6.

Province of al-Hasakah: The number of constituency members: 14. The number allocated to workers and peasants: 8. The number for other sectors of the people: 6.

Province of Dar'a: The number of constituency members: 10. The number allocated to workers and peasants: 5. The number for other sectors of the people: 5.

Province of al-Suwayda': The number of constituency members: 6. The number allocated to workers and peasants: 4. The number for other sectors of the people: 2.

Province of al-Qunaytirah: The number of constituency members: 5. The number allocated to workers and peasants: 3. The number for other sectors of the people: 2.

Clause 3: This decree shall be published in the official gazette. It goes into effect on the day of its publication. Damascus, 17 Ramadan 1410 Hegira, corresponding to 12 April 1990.

[Signed] President of the Republic Hafiz al-Asad

Governors To Receive Nominations 13-19 Apr

JN1304074190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] In implementation of the general election law terms, which specify a period of seven days, starting from the day after publication of the decree fixing the elections date in the official gazette, to submit nominations for the People's Assembly; and in implementation of Decree No. 62 of 12 April 1990, which fixes Tuesday, 22 May 1990, as the date for electing the People's Assembly members for the fifth legislative term 1990, the Interior Ministry has issued instructions to the governors to receive the nominations as of 13 April 1990 until the close of official business on Thursday, 19 April 1990. It also asked the governors to instruct the concerned employees in the related departments to report to work during the holidays that fall during the nominations period.

Afghanistan

Kabul Power-Sharing Plans Called 'Hollow'

BK1304094290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0907 GMT 13 Apr 90

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Kabul, April 13 (AFP)—Afghanistan's outspoken justice minister, Bashir Baghlani, has warned that Kabul's leaders have no intention of loosening their grip on power despite their much-publicised plans for ending the country's fracticidal war. Dismissing the Soviet-backed government's power-sharing plans as hollow, the 50-year-old lawyer said in an interview that the monopoly on power held by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) should be ended. In its place, there should be a universal Afghan front representing a full range of regional and political interests, he said.

The attack by Mr. Baghlani, who has served in President Najibullah's cabinet for seven years, was the first time a senior Kabul official had publicly criticised the PDPA's proposals for political reform.

"I think they (the regime) are angry with me, but they can do nothing. They can dismiss me.... But in future they might have a scheme for me," said the justice minister, who served prison terms under previous Afghan governments.

Mr. Baghlani, who leads the Northern Regional Afghan Revolutionary Toilers' Party, does not belong to the PDPA. He questioned Mr. Najibullah's idea of ending the PDPA's monopoly on power at a congress that would bring together a broad spectrum of predominantly left-wing political parties into a coalition known as the "peace front."

"The front will not succeed because from a psychological point of view the PDPA will not give an active role to other political organisations or parties in the state machinery," Mr. Baghlani said during the two-hour interview. "Having run the government for 12 years, it is difficult for them to give up the state machinery." The PDPA came to power in 1978 and was propped up by Soviet troops from December 1979 until February 1989.

Although the PDPA may be willing to delegate authority over some minor areas, it will never accept true power sharing, Mr. Baghlani said. The party will insist on controlling key offices such as the defence, home and foreign affairs ministries, the Supreme Court and the Attorney General's Office, he said. The PDPA has not even allowed its allies within the left-wing National Front to control significant posts in Kabul, he said.

Mr. Najibullah, who has repeatedly said he would step down to achieve peace, in December offered to transfer power to the National Front as the first step in a bid to lure the anti-government mujahidin rebels out of the hills and into the Afghan Parliament. But Mr. Baghlani said Kabul must broaden the proposed front in order to draw in the opposition factions. The mujahidin, who consider the PDPA a puppet of Moscow, have rejected several Afghan Government peace proposals as cosmetic and insincere, demanding that the regime step down before inviting the mujahidin for parleys or elections.

Suggesting wide-ranging amendments to the Afghan Constitution which reserves most power for the ruling party, Mr. Baghlani, whose party has been accused by the PDPA of trying to balkanize Afghanistan, also called for a constitutional clause transfering power to the people of all Afghan regions.

"The amendment should be such that not only available forces should participate in the transitional government, but it should break the existing status quo," he said. "The basic principal of the peace front is that the PDPA should be prepared for extensive concessions and give active part to other forces. Otherwise this or any other front would be a soulless and inefficient body," the justice minister said.

But he said the current PDPA attitude toward power-sharing is well expressed in a popular Persian saying: "I will have from the floor to the ceiling and you can have the skies and beyond."

Wakil Sends Appeal for Extension of UN Role

LD1204195190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] 'Abdul Wakil, Republic of Afghanistan minister of foreign affairs, recently sent the following message addressed to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. It has been circulated as an official document of the United Nations:

Esteemed Excellency:

The Geneva accords, which lay firm legal foundations for a political and peaceful solution to the situation in Afghanistan, and based on the great value of the UN system, were enforced some months ago. If these internatioanl documents had been implemented in the letter and spirit in which Your Excellency's efforts were directed, they could have resulted in a peaceful end to a very bloody and long regional conflict and positively influenced the international atmosphere qualitatively. To observe the articles of the Geneva accords, the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] began functioning. UNGOMAP was commissioned to watch the consistent and true implementation of the letter and spirit of the Geneva aricles by the contracting parties and to report to Your Excellency their investigations and assessments.

In the opinion of the Republic of Afghanistan, UNGOMAP's task to draw Pakistani's attention to observe and respect the pledges made in the Geneva accords, as well as their investigation and assessment, has not yet been

completed. According to the Geneva accords, the Soviet forces withdrew from the Republic of Afghanistan, and with them, all the reasons and fundamental bases for Pakistan's interference and aggression. Pakistani territory, however, continues to be used as a springboard for open armed interference and aggression against the Republic of Afghanistan and has even aquired new and dangerous dimensions.

No military bases used to train extremists have yet been dismantled nor have their military and cultural offices in Pakistan been closed. This openly violates the provisions of the Geneva accords. Various obstacles moreover have been created for the voluntary and honorable repatriation of Afghan refugees. Pakistan so far has violated the Geneva accords 9050 [as heard] times. These were drawn to the attention of Your Excellency in 1,103 notes via UNGOMAP.

As a matter of fact, only one point in the Geneva accords, the withdrawal of Soviet troops, has been realized. The other two points—ending the interference and the repatriation of refugees—so far have not been implemented. Based on this fact, the UN General Assembly, in Resolution No. [number indistinct], emphasized the need to implement the Geneva accords. Eleven articles of this resolution emphasize in particular the continuation of UNGOMAP's work in accordance with the Geneva accords.

The United States and Pakistan have been trying to restrict the Geneva accords only to the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and to prevent the continuation of UNGOMAP's work, contrary to the Geneva accords and the Republic of Afghanistan's disagreement with ending UNGOMAP's work, which has a special legal status through the Geneva accords. This stand never can be reasonable or justifiable.

We profoundly believe only the complete and honest implementation of the Geneva accords can bring peace, stability, and security in the Republic of Afghanistan and in this strataegic region of the world.

Your Excellency, the creation of a mechanism by the UN secretary general's office for Afghanistan and Pakistan—the duties of which so far have not been worked out—and the dismantling of UNGOMAP are taking place when broad and armed aggression, as well as intervention against the territorial integrity, national sovereignty, and independence of Afghanistan, as a full member of the UN, have gained new and dangerous dimensions. The recent futile and failed efforts by the Intelligence Service of Pakistan—ISI—in planning the coup against the Republic of Afghanistan, are a clear example. This is contrary to the letter and spirit of the Geneva accords and the UN Charter. The Republic of Afghanistan hopes the UNGOMAP mechanism, which in practice has outstanding political and legal credibility in accordance with the Geneva accords, will continue its work and properly investigate the circumstances under which the Geneva accords should be implemented by all relevant parties and continue to investigate the violations and to inform you about developments in the situation.

The Republic of Afghanistan has continuously and unreservedly supported and will continue to support the successful implementation of the tasks under the UN mandate and the all-round endeavors by Your Excellency to find a peaceful and political solution in Afghanistan and its surroundings. Taking this opportunity, we renew our compliments.

'Unprecedented Truce' Observed 11 Apr in Khowst

BK1204110890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1102 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, April 12 (AFP)—Afghan regime troops and mujahidin guerrillas observing an unprecedented truce in the battle for the eastern garrison town of Khowst exchanged bodies of their dead Wednesday [11 April], resistance sources here said Thursday [12 April].

Rival commanders agreed to a cessation of hostilities from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM (0630 GMT to 1430 GMT) in the southern front amid fighting for the control of the strategic town, the pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) reported. The purpose was to swap the body of Afghan pilot Captain Abdul Alim with that of mujahidin commander Amir Ali who died in the recent clashes, it said. Responsible people from both sides raising white flags made the exchange without any incident, it said, adding that fighting restarted after the stipulated period for the swap. The exchange was the first in the Khowst region and AIP did not specify the importance of the two bodies for the warring parties.

The resistance's main commander Jalaluddin Haqqani in a statement said fighting had resumed for the capture of Khowst. "Its airport was not yet completely closed," he added.

Amid reports of a possible surrender by the troops besieged in the garrison for the past several months, he reiterated that if they surrendered they would be amnestied. But if they are captured with the fall of the garrison, the government soldiers "will be treated as enemies," he said, implicitly referring to the death penalty traditionally meted out by guerrillas on communist troops.

The capture of Khowst, a town only 35 kms (20 miles) from Pakistan's north western border, is a long cherished aim of the mujahidin that could give the resistance a psychological boost. But the resistance remains divided in the region where forces of radical fundamentalist leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar were also present. Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami faction's influence in the region increased after former Defence Minister Shahnawaz Tanai, who masterminded an abortive coup against President Najibullah on March 6, announced support for the party. General Tanai, who belongs to the Khowst region, also has influence among th e troops in the beleaguered garrison.

"We call upon the troops to join us," Mr. Haqqani said, warning the soldiers that they could not be provided safety by Mr. Hekmatyar or Gen. Tanai, who are not in a majority in the area.

30 Soldiers Killed in 'Severe Fighting' in Kabul

BK1204133090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] In Afghanistan, severe fighting has been reported between militiamen and military police of the Kabul regime inside the Afghan capital, Kabul. About 30 soldiers are reported killed in the fighting which began as a result of an early [word indistinct] between the two organizations in an oil pumping station at neighboring Lowgar Province. There are also reports of fighting between mujahidin and the Kabul regime forces in Kabul, Paghman, Qandahar and Arghandab. The mujahidin are reported to have killed a large number of Kabul regime troops and captured several soldiers alive.

Military Operations Against Extremists Reported

LD1204175890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Quoting an authorized Armed Forces source, the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military correspondent states that the units and companies of the Armed Forces, during the last two days, have inflicted shattering blows on armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis at the security posts in Malizai—as a result of which they have captured suitable positions for the unit ranks [as heard].

The report adds that in order to prevent the use of heavy artillery by the enemy and in order to prevent it from engaging in active combat operations and keep them under pressure, artillery and air forces have carried out strikes against their trenches and centers of resistance. A total of 447 persons have been ousted from combat ranks during the last three days. One tank, six mortars, one recoilless gun, seven missile launchers, and a number of assorted light weapons were destroyed.

As a result of the enemy fire, five members of the forces were martyred and ten were injured. The units and companies are prepared for repulsing every sort of probable enemy attack.

According to the same source, units and companies in Nangarhar Province are, as a whole, engaged in strengthening their previous defense trenches. In the course of past two days, armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis have launched sporadic shelling against a number of security posts at Samarkhel, Behsud, Kan o Katraghay, and Dasht-e Gamberi. In retaliation, artillery and Air Force units have shelled the trenches of warmongers as a result of which 74 of them have been ousted from the combat ranks during the past two days and two mortars, four missile launchers, and one recoilless gun belonging to them were destroyed.

The report adds that on 8 April some units carried out an ambush at Dasht-e Gamberi, resulting in eight warmongers being killed, four captured, and 17 of their supply vehicles being destroyed.

In accordance with another report, armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis, during the past two days, sporadically fired heavy weapons at security posts at Gardani Baba, Sarpuza, and Tor Kotal and at the front ranks of units in Qandahar province. In order to foil these criminal actions, artillery and air forces launched strikes on the trenches of the warmongers as a result of which 60 members of the joint enemy forces were ousted from combat ranks during the past two days and one ammunition cache, one rocket missile unit, one recoilless gun, four mortars, and three BM-6 units belonging to them were eliminated.

The units and companies are carrying out their patriotic duties with high combat readiness.

Acceptance Letter for Envoy to USSR Received

LD1204205590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] The Information and Publication Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that the letter of acceptance of Mohammad Daod Razmyar as ambassador and extraordinary representative of the Republic of Afghanistan in the Soviet Union, which was requested from the authorities of this country, has recently arrived in Kabul.

India

Gunfire Reported Between Pakistani, Indian Troops

BK1304002090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1930 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Jammu, India, April 12 (AFP)—One Indian and five Pakistani soldiers were killed in an exchange of gunfire on the border in northern Jammu and Kashmir state Thursday [12 April], a defence official here said. He said the clash took place at Jangli area of Poonch sector in Jammu region on the line of control, set at the end of the third and last India-Pakistan war in late 1971. The official, who asked not to be named, denied the incident was related to reports of growing border tension between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, where Muslim militants are battling to end Indian rule.

The UNITED NEWS OF INDIA (UNI) quoting official sources said troops from either side traded gunfire at four points in Poonch sector Thursday, leaving one Indian and five Pakistani soldiers dead. The Indians found Pakistanis erecting bunkers along the line of control and objected to it, the news agency said. It said the Pakistanis began firing and Indian troops returned the fire.

The defence official based here in the state's winter capital, said the UNI report was not accurate.

"Intermittent exchanges of border firing have been a usual practice and there is nothing special about (Thursday's incident)," the official said. Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh on Tuesday [10 April] warned Pakistan, after again charging Islamabad of aiding militants in India's only Muslim-majority state, that it would have to pay a "very heavy price" for its stand on Kashmir. Islamabad promptly rejected his allegations.

Pakistani Plane Allegedly Enters Indian Airspace

BK1304131690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1259 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Jammu, India, April 13 (AFP)—A Pakistani military plane flew into Indian airspace Friday [13 April] as intermittent shooting by troops was reported on the Kashmir border for a fourth consecutive day, defence officials said here. The officials also reported "extraordinary" movements of troops and armour on the Pakistani side of the line of control.

This was the first reported airspace violation by a Pakistani plane over Kashmir this year, they said, adding that 11 such incidents were reported in 1989.

The officials said Pakistani troops had fired at and shelled Indian forward positions and villages Friday near the line of control which marks the border settled at the end of the last India-Pakistan war.

There were no immediate reports of casualties in Friday's incident, but one Indian and five Pakistani soldiers were reported killed in intermittent exchanges of fire in the Jangli area of Poonch Thursday [12 April]. Islamabad has denied that report. [passage omitted]

Pakistani Troops, Radars in 'Forward Positions'

BK1304075790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] The conference of chief ministers has extended its full support to the center in its efforts to solve the Kashmir problem and pledged to foil all attempts to create communal disharmony in the country. It appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir not to be misled by the secessionist and subversive elements operating in the valley under foreign tutelage. The chief ministers called upon the people to defeat the nefarious designs of these antinational forces to disrupt the country's unity.

In a statement issued after their four-hour-long meeting in New Delhi, which ended in the early hours today, the chief ministers blamed Pakistan for creating a grave situation in Kashmir. They said the country stands united to defend its unity and integrity and its secular institutions. They noted that open encouragement and support to secessionist forces by Pakistan, violence engineered by Pak-trained saboteurs, and the anti-India tirade orchestrated by that country all fall into a pattern. They declared that such attempts will not be allowed to succeed.

The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, who presided over the meeting, said firm measures taken by the government have started yielding results in Kashmir. The prime minister stressed the need for starting the political process with involvement of people in the state. He appealed to the people not to do anything which may affect the morale of those managing the situation.

Mr. V.P. Singh also explained to the chief ministers how Pakistan is fomenting trouble from across the border. He said they have now moved troops and radars to forward positions. He said his statements in Parliament asking people to be psychologically prepared for anything thrust upon India was made in this context.

Defense Production Units 'Fully Geared Up'

BK1204131090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] All the 39 defense production units in the country have been fully geared up to meet the requirements of the Armed Forces in the event of any emergency. The chairman of the ordnance board, Mr. (V.N. Bhandarka), told newsmen at Tiruchirappalli today that India will be independent of foreign collaboration in defense production by the end of this financial year.

Singh Hopes for Positive Results From Kashmir

BK1204161090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] The prime minister has expressed the hope that positive results will emerge very soon in Kashmir, following effective steps taken by the government to check antinational activities of the extremists. Speaking at the meeting of the presidium of National Front in New Delhi today, he described the situation as very serious. Mr. V.P. Singh apprised the presidium members of the current developments in Kashmir and Punjab.

Briefing newsmen, the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. P. Upendra, said that the prime minister listed various steps taken by his government to tackle the situation in the state. The prime minister said that an all-party meeting has been convened at Amritsar tomorrow to discuss ways and means to restore normalcy in the state.

The presidium accepted the resignation of six members of the Front's Secretariat, who have been inducted into the Union Council of Ministers. They are Mr. P. Upendra, Mr. Dinesh Goswami, Mr. Murasoli Maran, Mr. K.P. Unnikrishnan, Mr. Arif Mohammad Khan, and Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan.

The presidium also decided to admit the Progressive Democratic Front of Goa as the full fledged constituent

of the National Front. The chairman of the presidium, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, presided over the meeting.

Manhunt Continues in Kashmir; 19 Arrested

BK1204131990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] In Srinagar, the security forces are carrying out house-to-house search to nab the killers of the Kashmir university vice chancellor, Professor Mushirul Haq; his personal secretary, Mr. Abdul Ghani; and the HMT [Hindustan Machine Tools] factory general manager, Mr. H.L. Khera. About a thousand houses have so far been searched in different localities in the city. About 19 militants have been arrested and are being interrogated. Indefinite curfew continues in Srinagar and some other towns of Kashmir valley.

Government Cautions Kashmir, Punjab on Violence

BK0304145290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Excerpts] In Punjab 17 persons, including two policemen, were killed and 37 injured in a powerful bomb explosion at a procession in Batala town of Gurdaspur District this afternoon. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that 10 persons were killed on the spot and the remaining succumbed to injuries in a hospital in Amritsar. [passage omitted]

The government has cautioned the people of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab against attempts by terrorists to create dissatisfaction and spread communal discord. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the government has reports indicating that terrorist groups have been directed by sources across the border to step up violence and provoke communal incidents in the two states. The bomb blast in Batala town today is a pointer in this direction.

The government has advised the people in both Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab to be more alert in handling any object left unattended. They have also been advised to be more careful while parking their vehicles.

Malaysian Envoy Invites Singh to 15-Way Summit

BK1304041890 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] The visiting Malaysian foreign minister, Mr. Datuk Abu Hassan Bin Haji Omar, called on the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, in New Delhi today. He conveyed the message of the Malaysian prime minister, Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, inviting Mr. V.P. Singh to attend the Group of 15 summit meeting on the South-South cooperation being hosted by Malaysia in early June. The prime minister accepted the invitation.

The group was launched during the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] summit in Belgrade last year following the initiative taken by India. The purpose of the meeting is to project the perceptions of developing countries on major developments in world economy and the international economic relations.

Paper Notes 'Limited Success' in Arms Exports

BK1204121790 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 4 Apr 90 p 7

[By N. Vasuki Rao]

[Text] New Delhi, April 3—The Defence Ministry's efforts to boost arms exports have had only a limited success last year.

Speaking at a conference of chief executives of defence public sector undertakings in February 1989, the then Defence Minister, Mr. K.C. Pant, asked whether a target of Rs [Rupees] 1000 crore could be fixed for the financial year 1989-90.

Provisional figures made available by the ministry now reveal that exports were worth only Rs 60.5 crore during the year.

Only four of the eight defence undertakings were involved in reaching this figure. These were Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL), Bharat Electronics (BEL), Bharat Earth Movers (BEML), and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE). Of these, BEML contributed the largest amount of Rs 50 crore, followed by BEL with Rs 4.9 crore, HAL with Rs 3.3 crore, and GRSE with Rs 2.2 crore.

Thus, much of the 33 percent increase in exports in 1989-90 over the previous year was provided by BEML, which makes earth moving equipment, railway coaches, and ejector and air cleaner assemblies for the defence services. The performance of other sectors like electronics, aeronautics and shipyards, which would have provided large earnings, remained poor.

The reasons for this state of affairs are not difficult to find. They lie primarily in India's traditional policy against arms exports, relative technological backwardness compared to the advanced Western countries and major arms exporters, and low-volume production facilities.

Although moves to boost arms exports were made as far back as 1983, nothing much came of them till 1988 when Mr. Pant began to talk about exports after visiting a defence exhibition in Kirkee near Pune. Thereafter, last year, a fresh look was taken at the issue, and the public sector defence undertakings were given guidelines on what they can export and what they cannot, the countries to which exports can be made, and the ticklish question of agency commissions.

Under these guidelines, the companies were advised to maximise the use of existing capacities and in crease them if necessary for exports. But the guidelines on items negated the entire effort, as they were told that they can

export only "non-sophisticated" items. Weapons and weapon systems could be exported only on government-to-government basis.

The revival of interest in defence exports was the result of the headway made by China in recent years in capturing a large slice of the $35 billion (Rs 59,500 crore) global arms market.

In 1987, China exported arms worth $1.04 billion, ranking sixth in the world after the Soviet Union, the United States, France, Britain, and West Germany.

West Asia has been one of the largest markets for arms in the developing world. In 1987, it imported 44 percent of the total value of arms exported.

Indian ordance factories and public sector defence undertakings make items ranging from missiles to parachutes and ships to aircraft, and produced goods worth Rs 4,764 crore in 1988-89. In 1989-90, ordnance factories faced a decline in production owing to reduction in orders from the services, but they could not use their idle capacity to export the items.

Last year, the public sector defence undertakings did make some valiant efforts to get noticed in the world markets. HAL, BEL and BEML took part in a defence exhibition in Ankara (Turkey) in May. BEL and BEML put up stalls at the Baghdad exhibition about the same time. HAL maintained a small presence at the Paris air show in June.

HAL and the defence shipyards also participated in the defence exhibition in Singapore in February this year. The Defence Ministry says BEL and BEML plan to make intensive efforts to gain a foothold in the West Asian and Iranian markets. This is not going to be easy. According to reports from Paris, export orders for French defence equipment fell by more than 40 percent last year. "Jane's Defence Weekly" quoted analysts as saying that this was due to scarcity of foreign markets, ending of conflicts, clients with debt problems, and development of indigenous production facilities, while rising costs of new equipment was encouraging trends towards upgrades.

Bodo 'Militants' Suspected in Assam Violence

Remote-Control Bomb Kills 7

BK1204144990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] In Assam, at least seven persons were killed on the spot and 10 others injured, some seriously, when suspected All Bodo Students Union militants blew up a minitruck at Bongtal-Kajalgaon road in Kokrajhar District today. Official reports reaching Guwahati said the militants planted a remote-controlled high-intensity bomb on the road and detonated it as the truck was passing. The injured were shifted to hospitals. The victims belong to the Bodo community. Top police officials have rushed to the site of the explosion and investigations are on.

Two Trains Derailed; 13 Dead

BK1304033090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] In Assam, at least 13 people were killed and several injured when two passenger trains were derailed—allegedly by Bodo miscreants—in Kokrajhar District last night. According to reports reaching Delhi, the suspected Bodo militants exploded two powerful bombs on the railway track at Sepapani Village between Kokrajhar and Fakiragram stations around 0300 this morning. As a result, eight compartments of the Avadh-Assam Express derailed, killing 12 passengers on the spot and injuring 42. The entire track underneath the train blasted away. Relief and medical vans have been rushed to the site of the accident.

In another incident, one compartment of the (Duwad) express train between Bijni and Chaprakanta stations was derailed. One person was killed and at least 10 injured. The Railway Board chairman is rushing to Assam to oversee the relief and rescue operations. The railway minister, Mr. George Fernandes, who is now in Kashmir, expressed shock over the tragedy. He expressed his condolences to the bereaved families.

Bodo militants also blew up a portion of the Manas River bridge on the national highway near Bijni in the same district, resulting in disruption of direct road communication.

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Message on Jerusalem Day

NC1304073890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Apr 90

["Text" of message from Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution; date, place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the Almighty, the merciful. O Muslim brothers throughout the world, O great Iranian nation. The approaching International Jerusalem Day more emphatically reminds the brave Muslims of the world of their vital duty to support and defend the oppressed Palestinian nation.

Now that nations in Europe are abrogating the binding agreements that resulted from World War II and placing their sovereignty and national determination above the wishes of yesterday's victorious powers, the Palestinian nation is daily suffering greater pressure, oppression, and injustice from the usupers and their official and unofficial mentors. In these very days of the auspicious month of Ramadan, the fasting Palestinian people are suffering all kinds of difficulties in their homes at the

hands of the usurping enemy. The streets in the occupied territories are stained with the blood of Palestinian youths. The prisons have been filled with them, and the Western governments—those lying advocates of democracy and human rights—are not only not voicing the slightest protest, but actually supporting and encouraging the aggressing usurper.

The recent extremely significant and alarming development—that is, the collective and continuous transfer of Soviet Jews to Palestine—gives a new dimension to the Palestinian problem and shows the significance of this issue in the secret agreements between the United States and the Soviet Union. The tacit consent of most of the heads of Arab states which is sometimes even coupled with overt treachery, in addition to the abject and treacherous stands of those who claim the leadership of the Palestinian nation, are links in the chain of the perfidy, oppression, injustice, and treachery which wants to keep the Islamic territory of Palestine in a state of usurpation and the wounded and oppressed Palestinian nation in a state of bondage and displacement.

The false commotion about confrontation with Israel, which was started by the heads of the Iraqi regime and is being noisily echoed in the Zionist mass media in the West, complements the plans of arrogance and seeks to conceal the treachery of the Arab governments' silence on the Palestinian problem and overshadow the important problem of the transfer of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine.

What has been inflicted over the past 40 years by the regime that is usurping the country and nation of Palestine has provided enough experience to prove that hope of Palestine's salvation cannot lie in depending on the powers dominating the world and their dependents in the region. Our great Islamic revolution showed that the key to the solution of big problems is in the hand of the nations themselves and that human beings can, if they rely on God and trust divine promises, overcome the plans and wishes of the dominating powers. The incidents that have recently taken place in various parts of the world have provided growing proof of the role of nations.

It is only the determination of the Palestinian nation that can resist the brutal nature of the Zionist regime usurping Palestine and, with its manly valor, force the enemy to retreat and accept defeat. With its criminal acts in Palestine and Lebanon, its savage bombing of camps, and its looting, abductions, and corruption inside and outside the Palestinian border, this regime has shown that it is not governed by any human principle or any international law. How can those who forget the past ignore the crimes committed every day and without interruption by the Zionists in Palestine and Lebanon?

Fortunately, the Palestinian nation's Islamic awakening has brightened prospects for the future to a large extent. Today the new generation of the Palestinian nation is fighting in the name of God and by relying on its Islamic faith, and this is an extremely hope-inspiring struggle. As can be seen, the enemy—that is the Zionist leaders, the United States and the other supporters of Israel, and the regional traitors—are terrified of this new movement and have resorted to all means, the most recent of which is the empty and false slogan of attacking Israel uttered by the puppet Iraqi leaders, in an effort to hide the main direction of the struggle. Everyone knows that the Ba'thist Iraqi regime will never use the arms it has taken from the superpowers against Israel, which is itself living under the patronage of the superpowers, and that it will not use these weapons except to serve the objectives of arrogance or to blackmail the rich in the region.

The correct path of struggle against the usurping power is exactly the path the Palestinians have discovered themselves and along which they have begun to walk with determination. It is the duty of all Muslims to help them in this sacred struggle. Today no excuse from Muslim governments for remaining indifferent to the Palestinian problem is acceptable. The usurping government has elevated savagery and brutality to their highest levels and has proven that it is prepared to commit any crime to serve its expansionist and dangerous objectives.

The Islamic uprising of the Palestinian nation proves to everyone that despite the enemy's multifaceted pressure and the perfidy and treachery of the advocates of friendship, the sprout of resistance has not dried up and has become deep-rooted and fruitful. Thus, all nations and governments must sincerely consider the Islamic problem of Palestine to be among their priority issues and help it as much as they can.

The last Friday of the auspicious month of Ramadan which was named by our great late imam, may his soul be sanctified, as Jerusalem Day is approaching. In this month of Ramadan, with the approach of the Laylat al-Qadr [night marking the revelation of the Holy Koran], we should—as we stay awake until morning and pray to God for a good future—mark Jerusalem Day and this sensitive time of Laylat al-Qadr in the history of Islam by staying awake and alert and continuing our efforts until the coming of the dawn of the salvation of the Muslim nations and especially of the brave and oppressed Palestinian nation.

I hope that our great nation will, on this Jerusalem Day, be present in the streets and march to the areas where Friday prayers will be held, make its loud and thunderous cry heard by the world, and repeat that the ummah of the great Imam Khomeyni will always be next to Palestine and the enemy of its enemies.

May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] 'Ali Hoseyn Khamene'i

Ahmad Khomeyni Meets With IPO Officials

LD1204125290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Officials from the Islamic Propagation Organization [IPO] last night met with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni. During the meeting IPO supervisor Ayatollah Jannati paid tribute to the ideas of his holiness the imam. He stressed that the supreme ideas of his holiness the imam about various issues should not be forgotten. He then asked Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni to form a committee to follow up the application of the ideas of his holiness the imam within society.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni replied that Islam without the clergy is like medicine without a doctor. Therefore one must understand the clergy, without whom Islam would become hollow and have no influence. He added: According to the imam's ideas, there are two kinds of clergy: one is the group which is the proponent of pure Muhammadan Islam while the other is a supporter of American Islam. He then cited remarks made by his holiness the imam—may his dust be sanctified—in which he clearly stated the differences between the two kinds of Islam, adding: When the imam said that Islam without clergy is empty and hollow, he meant the pure Muhammadan Islam and not the clergy who support capitalists or the pseudopious and the ossified.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni then addressed the IPO leader. Today, he said, you carry the greatest responsibility before this nation. You are responsible for Islamic publicity, of course as far your resources and abilities permit. Then he pointed to the importance of religious seminaries, and the need for greater attention to them. He said: You must stand with all your might against the pseudopious and the ossified, and thereby prevent harm coming to the culture of the imam—which is the culture of freedom, liberation, resistance, and dynamism.

*RESALAT Report on 10 Mar 90 Majles Session

90AS0021A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 11 Mar 90 pp 5, 11

[Text] Yesterday morning, afternoon, and evening the Majles met in public session chaired by Mr. Karrubi.

During this session, discussion and study continued concerning the National Budget Bill for 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991], and the following notes were approved:

Note 16

A

1 - All province executive organizations may make use of self-help and participation from the people to carry out and complete their development projects.

2 - The 20 billion rials credit provided in row 503,079 of Part Four of this law for small new projects and to complete semi-completed province projects is allocated to projects where the people have contributed at least 15 percent of the credits (whether in cash, materials, movable or immovable assets, or manpower) in tribal and deprived regions, 30 percent in other sectors and rural areas, and 50 percent in the cities. Credits for each province will be distributed among the projects and plans as recommended by the governor-general or official of the appropriate executive organization and as approved by the province planning committee.

3 - A maximum of 30 percent of the credits in this paragraph will be spent in the cities and a minimum of 70 percent of it must be spent in the rural and tribal areas. Funds spent for self-help and participation to carry out the development projects in this paragraph will be tax-deductible for taxpayers.

4 - At least 30 percent of the credit given in Paragraph A must be spent only on projects to create and complete classroom space.

5 - It is prohibited to use the credits provided in this note to start projects that cannot be utilized alone or that cost more than 200 million rials. These projects are to be designated and approved by the planning committee.

B - The sum of 20 billion rials of the credits provided in row 503,134 is allocated to complete projects from Paragraph B Note 16 of the Budget Law of 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] which remain half-finished, to be distributed among the tribal provinces based on the relevant regulations and to be spent on the appropriate projects through the exchange of agreements in principle between the tribal affairs organizations and the province plan and budget organizations.

C - The Plan and Budget Organization is required to submit a report on the work done under this note every four months to the Plan and Budget Commission, [the Ministry of] Economic Affairs and Finance, and the Majles Accounting Court.

Note 17

A - The sum of 2.2 billion rials development credit from row 503,072 (Ministry of Culture and Higher Education—strengthening and expanding educational activity and educational and research assistance) in Part Four of this law, as recommended by the executive organizations, confirmed by the Plan and Budget Organization and after the exchange of agreements in principle, as follows:

1 - The sum of 1.5 billion rials from this row will be used solely to complete projects being implemented (provided in Supplement One) at universities and institutions of higher learning.

2 - The remaining 1.5 billion rials of development credits will be used for basic repairs on buildings and installations at universities and institutions of higher learning.

B - The sum of two billion rials development credit in row 503,104 (Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education, strengthening and expanding educational activities, educational and research assistance) in Part Four of this law, as recommended by the executive organizations and approved by the Plan and Budget Organization and after the exchange of agreements in principle, may be spent as follows:

1 - The sum of one billion rials of the development credits in this row may be spent solely to complete the projects being carried out (as provided in Supplement One) at the relevant universities and institutions of higher learning.

2 - The remaining one billion rials of the development credits will be used for basic repairs on buildings and installations at universities and colleges of medical science.

C - To alleviate the shortages and problems at university dormitories, the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran must provide the credits needed to the relevant ministries through the nation's banking system in the form of interest-free loans or participatory loans or other Islamic forms, without using the government's usual credits, at the maximum figures listed below.

1 - The sum of five billion rials to complete and build student dormitories made available to the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, and 1.5 billion rials to buy buildings and convert them to student dormitories.

2 - The sum of three billion rials to complete and build student dormitories made available to the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education, and 1.5 billion rials to buy buildings and convert them to student dormitories.

3 - The sum of three billion rials to complete and build student dormitories and three billion rials to buy buildings and convert them to student dormitories made available to the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education.

D - The sum of 800 million rials from row 503,001 to be spent on the national college admissions examinations is added to the row for the National Educational Testing Organization.

E - All executive organizations who utilize funds from the current and development budgets for research must spend at least 15 percent of these credits through the universities and institutions of higher learning.

Supervision of proper implementation of this paragraph will be the responsibility of the National Academic Research Council.

Note 18 - A maximum of 25 percent increase of the credits for agreements in principle on national and province development credits provided in Supplement One of this law may be made as follows:

A - Through the reduction of credit for other development projects in every plan, as recommended and approved by the highest official of the relevant organization or organizations and with the agreement of the Plan and Budget Organization or the province plan and budget organization, as indicated.

B - Through the reduction of credits for projects in this section's other plans, as recommended and approved by the highest official of the relevant organization or organizations and with the agreement of the Plan and Budget Organization, provided the total increase or decrease of credits for each plan does not exceed 10 percent.

C - It is prohibited to reduce province and national credits for deprived sectors to increase credits in other sectors.

D - Any form of reduction of rural and tribal credits to increase urban credits, as well as the reduction of credits in any one of the important and major projects in Supplement One of this law is prohibited.

Note 19

A - Authorization is given to distribute the credits provided in row 105,004 in Part Four of this law under the title Ministry of the Interior, Municipalities, among the nation's municipalities, as recommended by the Minister of the Interior and with the agreement of the Plan and Budget Organization and approval of the Council of Ministers. A minimum of 80 percent of the above credits must be among the municipalities that are not province centers. The Minister of the Interior may establish self-sufficient municipalities at district centers with a population of at least 5,000 persons.

B - The credits in rows 503,006 and 503,007 provided in Part Four of this law will be allocated to the bus companies and municipal bus companies and the Plan and Budget Organization is authorized, on recommendation of the Ministry of the Interior, to allocate the shares each bus company, mini-van bus company and municipal bus company from the credits in the above rows.

The Ministry of the Interior must allocate 10 percent of the general budget of each municipality to the bus company, mini-van bus company and the municipal bus company affiliated with that municipality.

C - The General Treasury must collect into the central treasury the funds collected by the ministries, government institutions, and government companies in the name of the municipalities according to the proper regulations and make the funds available to the Municipalities Organization of the Ministry of the Interior for the purpose of achieving self-sufficiency and dividing among the municipalities.

1 - Eighty percent of the funds collected are to be made available to the appropriate municipalities in accordance with the table proposed by the Municipalities Organization and approved by the minister of the interior.

About 20 percent of the remaining sums collected are to be made available to the Municipalities Organization to be spent carrying out responsibilities to improve general conditions in the municipalities.

D - Revenues collected implementing Note 46 of the Budget Law for 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986] are to be made available to the Ministry of the Interior to be divided among small municipalities with populations of less than 25,000 and spent on the procurement of fundamental installations in those cities located in the deprived sectors. Mayors and workers for municipalities throughout the country are not covered by the provisions of Paragraph 43 and its note for the Budget Law for 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986].

The Ministry of the Interior is required to submit a report on the work done under this note every four months to the Majles Accounts Office, and the Plan and Budget and Domestic Affairs commissions.

Note 20

A - The executive organizations and the Plan and Budget Organization must exchange agreements in principle no later than three months after the date of this bill's enactment detailing activities pertaining to the current credits in sections four and five of this law.

B - As long as the agreements in principle detailing activities pertaining to the current credits given in Paragraph A of this note have not been exchanged, current credits for national executive organizations will be employed with the confirmation of the credit allocation committee based on plans and cost categories in Part Four of this law and for local executive organizations at levels allocated by the credit allocation committees in Paragraph C Note 21 of this law.

C - It is authorized to increase current credits for each of the plans and cost categories for ministries and government institutions provided in Part Four of this law and for the executive organizations provided in the agreements in principle detailing the activities in Paragraph A of this note by reducing other plans and cost categories in the organization, provided that the total credit for that organization does not change, and that it changes a maximum of five percent for the first category and a maximum of 20 percent for the other categories, as recommended and approved by the highest official and with the agreement of the Plan and Budget Organization or the province plan and budget organization, as indicated.

D - After the approval of new organizations for the central offices of economic affairs and finance in the provinces which have been prepared on the basis of the new National Public Accounting Law, for the purpose of creating the means to implement this law, to provide the levels of credit for the plans to collect government revenue and allow the supervision of government financial affairs, the aforementioned general offices may be moved from place to place on the basis of the above approved organizations in accordance with the agreement in principle that has been exchanged between the minister of economic affairs and finance and the chief of the Plan and Budget Organization.

Differences of opinion in the provinces will be resolved in the province planning committtee.

E - The transfer of current credits among local executive organizations covered by the province budget provided in Section Five of this law is authorized, as recommended by the appropriate local executive organizations and with the approval of the province plan and budget organization, one time only per year for each province to a maximum of five percent of the credits approved for each local executive organization, within the 20 percent limit provided in Paragraph C of this note and provided that there is no change in the province's total credits.

F - The central executive organizations are authorized, when necessary, to allocate a maximum of 10 percent of their current approved credits to their affiliated offices in the provinces which are covered by the province budget system, and in this case the credits in each case will be allocated as recommended by the minister or the highest official in the appropriate central executive organization. The Plan and Budget Organization will deduct from the budget of the aforementioned executive organization and according to the plan it will add to the current credits of the appropriate local executive organization.

Note 21

A - The executive organizations and the Plan and Budget Organization must exchange agreements in principle no later than three months after the date of this bill's enactment detailing activities pertaining to the development activities given in Supplement One of this law.

B - For the purpose of expediting the progress of national and province development projects and to facilitate the associated payments, authorization is given:

1 - For development projects given in Supplement One of this law who have for good reason not announced the details of their activities by the end of Ordibehesht 1369 [21 May 1990], the credit allocation committee must allocate the necessary funds to implement the projects on account.

The Plan and Budget Organization and the executive organizations must allocate on account the sums needed to implement this note, with priority over credits for the other activities given in the explanation of activities for the relevant projects.

2 - Two deputies elected by the Majles will sit on the credit allocation committee mentioned in Article 30 of the National Plan and Budget Law as observers.

3 - The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance will assign unused funds equal to 10 percent of the credits for

each development project to each of the national and province executive organizations to be used on the basis of the allocation of credit.

4 - To put into operation producing factories, procure the materials and implements of construction, and to create the seasonal coordination necessary for the supply and demand of construction materials, up to 10 percent of the credit approved for national and province construction projects in the year 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] is allocated to buy the needed factory construction materials and supplies, spare parts, and machinery for projects, and after delivering the goods and materials purchased to the factories, the executive organizations must deduct the figure for fixed finished costs from the balance sheet for the project being carried out by the contractor.

If these purchases are for materials used in work carried out by contractors at the level provided by the guidelines for this note, they must be deducted from the contractor's balance sheet and any difference will be charged to the project's fixed costs.

The guidelines for this paragraph must be prepared within one month of this law's enactment by the Plan and Budget Organization of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance and then approved by the Council of Ministers.

Unused funds provided in this note must be deposited no later than the end of 1369 [20 March 1991].

C - The current and development credits approved for each province will be allocated by categories at specific times by the province credit allocation committee composed of the governor-general's deputy for development, the general manager of province economic affairs and finance, and the chief of the province plan and budget organization, according to need and in view of the progress of operations in each case.

The credit allocation committees mentioned in this paragraph must allocate the quarterly development credits for the provinces of Kordestan and West Azarbaijan and for the nation's deprived and cold districts no later than the first of Aban [23 October].

D - Five percent of the total credits allocated for the national projects in each organization will be assigned to the minister or the organization's highest executive official to be committed and spent as needed based on the progress of operations in the appropriate projects, and the above credits will be treated as allocated as of the beginning of the year.

E - All the credits for the nation's deprived districts provided in this law will be treated as allocated.

Note 22 - To expedite and facilitate implementation of the projects in Part One Supplement One of this law, which have been designated as important projects, as well as the projects in Paragraph A and the half-finished projects in Paragraph B Note 16 in the Budget of 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], if these projects, because of their physical progress and their greater appeal, are faced with a shortage of credits, authorization is given, with the recommendation of the Plan and Budget Organization and with the approval of the Council of Ministers, that the credits provided for subsequent years in Supplement One of this Law or the credits needed to complete the projects with an expected completion date during 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] may be taken from savings on other national development projects to a maximum of 100 billion rials and added.

Note 23 - To maintain and preserve buildings with cultural value, a commission will be formed in each province composed of the deputy governor-general for development, the chief of the province plan and development organization, the province general manager of housing and urban development, the organization using the buildings, and the representative of the National Cultural Heritage Organization. This commission can match existing projects and projects reflected in the Budget for 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] with existing buildings that have cultural value, and under the supervision of the National Cultural Heritage Organization it can spend the relevant budgets provided in the Budget for 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] to repair, equip, and prepare them for use according to the goals of the budget.

Note 24

A - The province planning committee, with the agreement of the executive organization, may turn over all the executive operations or the projects from each province project to the province construction jihad or the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Housing Foundation for implementation after an announcement of readiness and with the confirmation of the province construction jihad.

B - The chiefs of the executive organizations, on their own discretion and responsibility, may turn over all the executive operations or the projects from each national project, and in view of their capacity and competence for implementation, to the Ministry of Construction Jihad, so that the Ministry of Construction Jihad, in the event of its agreement, may use the transferred credit under the supervision of the transferring executive organization to carry out the project.

Any difference in the fixed work costs and credits collected for the projects or plans transferred under this note will be spent on the same related plan or on the Potable Water Procurement Plan.

C - The Ministry of the Interior, at its own discretion and responsibility, may turn over all the executive operations or the projects form each development project in rows 11,102 and 40,902, in view of their capacity and competence for implementation, to the Ministry of Roads and Transport and other executive organizations.

Note 25 - Authorization is given to allocate all the special profits obtained through the Budget for 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] to the regional electric companies, the Tavanir Company, the Iranian Electrical Organization and the Khuzestan Water and Electrical Organization with the approval of the general assembly of the above companies to expedite and facilitate the implementation of fundamental plans and projects for production and power transfer to meet the capital costs of the projects of the above companies. The funds obtained from this note and Note 31 of the Budget Law of 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988] and any kind of price increase from this date on will be spent on production and power transfer projects under the supervision of the Ministry of Energy and through the central funds account of the Iranian Electrical Organization based on the budget approved by the above companies and on the exchange of agreements in principle detailing operations with the Plan and Budget Organization and observing the provisions of Article 17 of the Budget Law and the National Budget. The Plan and Budget Organization must provide operational supervision for implementation of the capital costs of these companies, and these companies must provide to the Plan and Budget Organization any kind of information or documents needed.

Note 26

A - The Ministry of Petroleum is authorized, to procure the necessary financial resources to meet its foreign exchange and rial costs, to procure the needed oil by-products from abroad and to transfer them to the nations's points of entry; 234,000 barrels of crude oil per day may be exported for sale by the National Iranian Oil Company, and the foreign exchange funds thereby obtained will be deposited in the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran to be included in the foreign exchange account provided in Part B Table One Part Nine, and its rial equivalent will be included in the nation's general revenues provided in row 210,102 Part Three of this law.

B - The rial credits provided in row 220,001 (National Iranian Oil Company—to procure the oil by-products needed by the nation and the costs of transporting export and aid crude oil) in Part Four of this Law, based on this note's implementation schedule to be approved by the Council of Ministers as recommended by the Ministry of Petroleum, will be treated as allocated.

C - The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance must provide to the National Iranian Oil Company the rial equivalent of the foreign exchange obtained from the export of the 260,000 barrels of crude oil per day given in Note A of this note to a maximum of 120.834 billion rials from the credits in row 220,001 on the basis of the approved plan given in Paragraph B and at the request of that company. Likewise, the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran must sell the foreign exchange needed to the National Iranian Oil Company to meet the costs given in this note equivalent to the foreign exchange funds obtained from the export of 260,000 barrels of crude oil per day to a maximum of $1.63 billion.

D - The National Iranian Oil Company must centralize the rial and foreign exchange funds obtained from the credits given in Paragraph C of this note in the separate accounts to be opened for this purpose at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and, observing the provisions of Paragraph A, the funds must be exclusively used for the expenditures given in that paragraph, and the remaining uncommitted and unspent funds from the aforementioned rial and foreign exchange accounts will be returned to the Central Treasury and the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran respectively at the end of 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] and no later than the end of Farvardin 1380 [20 April 1991].

E - If the National Iranian Oil Company finds it necessary to refine part of the 260,000 barrels per day of crude oil sent abroad mentioned in Paragraph A of this note instead of selling it, and then brings the by-products back into the country, at the end of each month it must declare the amount refined to the treasury, so that the equivalent price of this oil can be calculated as the equivalent foreign exchange and rial price of the oil sales provided in this law. On the one hand this will be calculated as the general national revenues in row 210,202 in Part Three of this law, and on the other hand it will be calculated as the payments for credits in row 220,002 in Part Four of this Law.

F - Once every three months the Ministry of Petroleum must submit a report on work done under this note to the Majles oil and plan and budget commissions.

Note 27 - Authorization is given to allocate all the special profits obtained through the activities of 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] for the National Iranian Oil Company, the National Iranian Gas Company, the National Iranian Petrochemical Industries Company, and the affiliated companies, with the approval of the general assembly of the National Iranian Oil Company, the Natural Gas Company, the Liquid Gas Company, and the National Iranian Petrochemical Industries Company to expedite and facilitate the implementation of fundamental plans and projects in the oil, gas, and petrochemical sectors to meet the capital costs of the projects of the above companies after the exchange of agreements in principle detailing operations with the Plan and Budget Organization.

The Plan and Budget Organization must provide operational supervision of the implementation of the capital costs of these companies, and these companies must provide to the Plan and Budget Organization any kind of information or documents needed.

The above companies must submit a list of the development plans and projects that have been begun or are beginning to be funded by credits from this note through the Ministry of Petroleum to the Majles Plan and Budget Commission.

Dr. Shaybani issued a Constitutional warning concerning Paragraph Three Note 28 which says: "All funds and property of unknown ownership, without owner or heir and funds and assets that can be used for charity and are not owed or subject to Principle 49 of the Constitution and other laws, are made available to the (ruling) vali-ye faqih [supreme jurisconsult], and as ordered by the Imam of the nation (May God Have Mercy on Him) as of 2/6/69 [26 April 1990] they are made available to his representatives.

The representatives of the chief jurisprudent, at the end of the month of Azar each year [21 December], will submit a list to the Majles Plan and Budget Commission of payments made from this paragraph in the budget for government organizations and institutions and organizations receiving assistance from the government, for the purpose of coordinating and adjusting the budget for the next year."

Dr. Shaybani's Constitutional Warning

Dr. Shaybani gave a short talk concerning his Constitutional warning in which he said:

The statement that assets of unknown ownership and without an owner are to the Imam's representatives by order of the Imam is unconstitutional. Therefore the new vali-ye faqih (His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i) must give the order.

After the Constitutional warning, Mr. Karrubi said: First of all, this happened last year, secondly, if the Council of Guardians finds a problem we will act on it, third, the leader of the revolution has implemented the commands of His Holiness the Imam, and this is one of those commands.

Majid Ansari (Proposed Deletion)

Mr. Majid Ansari proposed the deletion of Paragraph Three Note 28. During a speech he said: Paragraph Three Note 28 deals with assets of unknown ownership, which legally and under religious law are at the disposal of the vali-ye faqih. During his lifetime, the Imam of the nation named Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Aqa-ye Karrubi and Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Aqa-ye Sane'i as his administrators, and these assets were at the discretion of these great men, and this order was confirmed and enforced by His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i. Even now these two great men are associated with these assets as the administrators of the vice-regent, and the question is not about the Majles and its approval, because this decree exists. I proposed that Paragraph Three be deleted, especially that, and the reason is "the representatives of the vali-ye faqih must report to the Majles and the Plan and Budget Commission." This matter is therefore quite clear and unconstitutional. The representatives of the vali-ye faqih must not report to the Majles, they must report to the vali-ye faqih. I therefore propose the deletion of Paragraph Three Note 28.

The Commission Expert's Comments

Mr. Hadi Ghaffari, the Plan and Budget Commission's expert, gave a speech about the deletion of this paragraph. He said: If it were not for this paragraph, what would the organizations and the courts do? We specified their responsibilities in this paragraph, saying that if they obtain such assets, they have the right to intervene, in reality we came and stabilized the velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult], and we ordered the courts not to intervene in this area. We said the representatives of the vali-ye faqih should come and report not so we can settle the accounts, it is not this way, it is so we can know how much has been given to the Aid and Health Committee, so we will know how much of their credits for the coming year have been spent and can take note of it. Likewise in the last section we did not simply write that since it is the Imam's command that is the end of it. We wrote that the assets are made available to the (ruling) supreme jurisconsult. We made a point of inserting the word "ruling" to bring it back to our time, therefore the deletion of this will mean that what has happened previously in the courts will happen with regard to this as well, and these monies will be moved around. To keep these assets from being moved around and so that they will be controlled by the vali-ye faqih, the courts must take note that this money belongs to the vali-ye faqih. We therefore made the provision and indeed it must be there.

After remarks from the commission expert, the government representative spoke in support of deleting this paragraph. The proposal to delete Paragraph Three Note 28 was thus put to a vote and was approved by the deputies.

Full Text, Note 28

A - The national public prosecutor, all the executive courts, and the appropriate judicial authorities are subject to the following requirements:

1 - All foreign exchange and rial funds as well as gold, silver, copper coins, and jewels taken from smugglers are to be immediately turned over to the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran and in the municipalities to the National Bank of Iran for safekeeping immediately without intervention or delay by the judicial authorities to determine definitive ownership, with a record of proceedings prepared with the signatures of the representatives of the National Public Prosecutor and the minister of economic affairs and finance. The funds mentioned in this paragraph will be put into special accounts which have been opened or will be opened by the Treasury at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran for this very purpose.

2 - Funds obtained through the sale of abandoned government and non-government goods, confiscated goods, finalized smuggled goods, smuggled goods without an owner or with an owner that cannot be located, as well as movable and immovable goods that have been or will be confiscated permanently by the

government through the decision of competent judicial authorities or competent administrative and guild authorities, in various ways such as confiscation, return, possession, penalties on smuggled goods, conveyance, gift, and other ways, as well as rial and foreign exchange funds, as well as the funds mentioned in Note 82 of the Budget Law of 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984], without intervention or delay will be put into special accounts which have been opened or will be opened by the Treasury at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran for this very purpose, to be included with the account for general revenue at Line 410,108 of Part Three of this law.

Likewise the organizations and authorities mentioned must turn over to the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance all gold, silver, copper coins, jewels, and assets mentioned in this note as well as other movable and immovable assets which have come or will come into the government's possession in the above ways, immediately and with the inclusion of a record of proceedings signed by the appropriate prosecutor's office and the chief of the local office of economic affairs and finance or their representatives.

The storage and sale of smuggled smoking materials included in this note except the paragraph in the last part of Row B and Row A and D and F Paragraph 2 are exempt and are to be carried out by the Iranian Smoking Materials Company.

This company must, without intervention or delay, deposit the proceeds from the sale of these goods into the General Revenues Account mentioned in row 410,108 Section Three of this law, observing the law amending Article 19 of the Smuggler Penalties Law and the subsequent reforms enacted 11/9/1363 [29 January 1985], after deducting 10 percent of the proceeds as the company's commission.

As long as the goods mentioned in this paragraph have not been sold, the responsibility for their safekeeping and storage, as provided in the executive guidelines for this law, as appropriate will fall to the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance or the organizations in whose advantage the confiscation decree was issued.

3 - All funds and property of unknown ownership, without owner or heir and funds and assets that can be delivered and in implementation of Principle 49 of the Constitution and other laws are made available to the (ruling) vali-ye faqih, and with his full permission, are made available to the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance separately for their storage, management, and sale. The cash, commissions, and other revenues obtained through the storage, management and utilization of the goods in this paragraph are made available to the Imam's Relief Committee and the Health Organization (including the provincial health organizations, the Martyr Raja'i Project, the Veterans of the Islamic Revolution Foundation, the Office of Deprived Areas, and the Ministry of Justice) to pay bankruptcy costs and other matters authorized by the vali-ye faqih.

B - As soon as possible, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance must provide the means to sell all the goods and assets mentioned in this note which are or will be confiscated permanently in the government's interest (all recording and filming equipment and the materials they use will be sold under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance), as well as abandoned goods and goods covered under Article 52 of the Smuggler Penalties Law, observing public regulations. The funds so obtained, observing the provisions of Notes One, Two, and Four of the law amending Article 19 of the Smuggler Penalties Law and subsequent amendments enacted 11/19/1363 [8 February 1985], will be deposited in the National Revenues Account mentioned in rows 410,108 and 410,111 of Part Three of this law.

Ownership of abandoned non-government goods and smuggled goods with no owner or owners who cannot be located must be documented by decree from a religious magistrate.

C - Delay or failure to carry out the responsibilities given in the above paragraphs of this note will be treated as illegal possession of government funds and assets, and the national public prosecutor will be required to define and prosecute the issue before the judicial authorities.

D - The National Public Prosecutor will exercise full intelligence supervision over the proper implementation of this note with regard to the responsibilities assigned to all the proper organizations and authorities.

E - The minister of economic affairs and finance will report every three months on the work done under this note to the Majles plan and budget, judicial, and economic affairs and finance commissions, the accounting court, and the National Public Prosecutor.

F - The executive guidelines for this note will be compiled as recommended jointly by the National Public Prosecutor and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance and approved by the Council of Ministers.

G - All the assets mentioned in this note, from abandoned goods to confiscated and smuggled goods, will be available to the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance for use by academic, cultural, and educational organizations, with the exception of narcotics, which will be sold exclusively by auction. The organizations involved have no authorization of any kind to transfer them to any organization or private individual.

H - Five percent of the income deriving from this note will be applied to the physical training account of the same province where the note is being implemented.

Note 29 - The Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran is authorized in the year 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] to pay up to $15.435 billion out of the foreign exchange revenues for this year and from Table One Part 11 of this law, observing the provisions of this

law, the National Money and Banking Law, and other relevant laws and regulations in the framework of the first Five-Year Plan and based on the decisions of the Central Foreign Exchange Allocation Committee solely within the framework of the tables in Part 11 of this law or observing the provisions of the paragraphs below.

1 - The foreign exchange share of the executive organizations in the framework of the Five-Year Plan will be designated no later than the last day of the month of Ordibehesht [21 May] according to the joint statement by the Plan and Budget Organization and the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran and with the confirmation of the Foreign Exchange Allocation Committee and the approval of the Council of Ministers. The level of foreign exchange allocations will be determined every three months based on foreign exchange revenues by the Foreign Exchange Allocation Committee, and once every three months the Plan and Budget Organization must obtain a report from the receiving organizations on foreign exchange allocations, and their conformity with the Five-Year Plan and announce it to the appropriate commissions along with commentary.

2 - The members of the Foreign Exchange Allocation Committee consist of the ministers of economic affairs and finance, commerce, agriculture, and oil, the chief of the Plan and Budget Organization, the president of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and one of the ministers in the industrial sector chosen by the president of the republic. At the same time, two Majles deputies, elected by the Majles, will sit on the committee's meetings as observers. The chairmanship of the committee will be held by the minister of economic affairs and finance and the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be its secretariat. The sessions will require a quorum of six out of the eight members, and the decisions taken by the Foreign Exchange Allocation Committee with a vote of five persons will be considered official.

3 - The Foreign Exchange Allocation Committee must give priority to commitments made under Paragraph Five Note 29 of the Budget Law for 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] (Foreign Exchange Installment Payment Transactions) whose foreign exchange repayment period from the date of registration at the Secretariat of the Foreign Exchange Allocation Committee will be completed in the year 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991].

4 - The foreign exchange share of the development projects given in the government sector of Table Four of the First Five-Year Plan will be treated as allocated and and the foreign exchange for these projects will be paid monthly based on physical progress and announced by the Plan and Budget Organization and the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The foreign exchange paid for production projects will be paid as recommended by the proper ministers and with the approval of the Foreign Exchange Allocation Committee. The Foreign Exchange Allocation Committee must allocate the foreign exchange needed for Note Three in connection with the investment of production projects with priority to the veterans of Paragraph E of Note Three.

5 - The Foreign Exchange Allocation Committee must give priority in the allocation of foreign exchange needed to the purchase and preparation of construction materials and substances and machinery needed for projects and also for the procurement of the construction materials needed under the Teacher Housing Procurement Law enacted by the Majles 2/13/1368 [3 April 1989] based on the physical scale of the First Five-Year Plan in the relevant sectors.

6 - In the implementation of Paragraph 29 of the First Five-Year Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Central Bank must allocate $20 million as export imprest funds.

7 - The Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran is authorized, to accomplish the investments provided for future years in the First Five-Year Plan, to commit up to $5.4 billion dollars in the framework of Table Four of Part 11 of this law in such a way that its repayment in the form of the shares of each sector in Table Nine of the Law of the First Five-Year Plan will be $700 million in 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992], $1.7 billion in 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993], and $3 billion in 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994].

The payments on these paper credits take priority in the years due over other needs in the foreign exchange budget for those years.

8 - All the companies and institutions mentioned in Articles Four and Five of the Public Accounting Law as well as all importers using government foreign exchange and all exporters must make all their foreign exchange payments and receipts exclusively through the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran or an authorized bank designated by the Central Bank.

9 - The Ministry of Petroleum must send a monthly report on oil sales and revenues, as well as their projected figures for one month, two months, and three months in advance, no later than the fifth of each month to the Foreign Exchange Allocation Committee, the Plan and Budget, Commerce, and Economic Affairs and Finance commissions, and the Majles Accounting and Financial Affairs Court.

10 - The Foreign Exchange Allocation Committee must allocate the foreign exchange provided in Table Two Part 11 of this Law in such a way that the projected income in Row 420,505 of Part Three of this law will be achieved, and it must submit to the Majles Accounting Court and the Economic Affairs and Finance Commission a report on the related work done at the end of each month.

11 - Increases for each of the figures for the items in Tables Two, Three, and Four Part 11 of this law are authorized to the limits given below and out of decreases

taken from other goods in those tables, as recommended by the Foreign Exchange Allocation Committee and approved by the Council of Ministers.

- Table Two, up to 10 percent

- Table Three, up to 30 percent

- Table Four, up to 10 percent

12 - The Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran is authorized, in the implementation of Paragraph D Note 29 of the First Five-Year Plan Law for the projects in Table Four Part 11 of this law for the executive organizations mentioned in the above table, to make commitments within the limits of the First Five-Year Plan with the following maximums:

Industry	$2,500million
Heavy Industries	$1,700million
Metals	$1,950million
Petrochemicals	$ 850million
Communications	$ 300million
Mines	$ 200million
Total	$7,500million

The credit for each project will be approved by the Foreign Exchange Allocation Committee after its technical and economic justification is made by the Plan and Budget Organization, on the recommendation of the proper executive organization.

13 - Two deputies chosen by the Majles will act as observers of the activities of the Purchase Council.

To equip medical hospitals to procure medical services for patients who are sent abroad or to purchase medical services, the sum of $50 million will be deposited in the special account of the Securities Council of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to be spent gradually at the request of the Securities Council, whose members will be chosen by the minister of health, treatment, and medical education.

The conditions for importing materials will be restricted to those provided in the guidelines to be announced by the minister of health, treatment, and medical education.

The report on measures taken by the council will be sent as information every four months to the Majles Plan and Budget and Health commissions.

14 - Any intervention or changes in the figures given in Table One of this note except in the instances and by the authorities above, will be considered illegal possession of government assets and the violator will be prosecuted.

15 - Every three months the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran must submit a report on work done under this note in the categories given in the aforementioned paragraphs and the tables given in Part 11 of this law to the Foreign Exchange Allocation Committee and the Majles Plan and Budget and Economic Affairs and Finance commissions and the Accounting and Financial Affairs Court.

16 - The sum of 50 million rials foreign exchange will be allocated in the year 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] by the Ministry of Commerce out of the rationed and non-rationed foreign exchange credits given in Paragraph Three Table Two of this law, for the procurement of construction materials and needed equipment for 3,000 hospital beds constructed in 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] and for 5,000 new hospital beds to be built in 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991].

Every three months the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development must send a report on work accomplished under this paragraph to the Majles Health, Plan and Budget, and Housing and Urban Development commissions.

17 - The sum of $4 million in foreign exchange will be provided to the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] out of foreign exchange credits allocated to health and treatment (Health Section) in this law. The sum of $2 million will be given to the Health Organization to be used through the proper technical orthopedic centers to buy the materials and parts needed to build artificial limbs for veterans of the Islamic revolution and handicapped people.

The Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Health Organization must send a report every four months on work done under this note to the Majles Health and Plan and Budget commissions.

18 - In the implementation of Paragraph C Note 29 of the First Five-Year Plan Law to procure the added value section intended, at least $300 million will be appropriated to the industrial ministries to procure public and private equipment for projects covered under the plan, and after the list of expenditures is announced to the Plan and Budget Organization the money will be deducted from the foreign exchange credits for the aforementioned projects.

The executive organizations for the projects covered in the First Five-Year Plan (the ministries of Oil, Energy, Defense, Roads and Transport, Agriculture, and Post, Telegraph, and Telephone) must require their contractors to use domestically-manufactured resources in coordination with the ministries of industry in the form of various kinds of industrial cooperation (consortium, joint contractor cooperation).

19 - The Foreign Exchange Allocation Committee must allocate to the ministries of industry the foreign exchange needed for raw and intermediate materials to complete existing capacity in the nation's industries out of the import foreign exchange from the final products of these goods, for the purpose of producing the aforementioned goods.

20 - The sum of $3 million from industrial sector foreign exchange will be allocated by the domestic factories to build and procure the consumer goods and equipment needed for rural and agricultural electricity, and the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran must make the commitments at the request of the industries and with the confirmation of the Ministry of Construction Jihad.

21 - The sum of $57 million will be deducted from the services section (Row 29) and added to the row for universities and the institutions affiliated with the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education.

22 - Two units of the elastic framework project are added to Paragraph D Note 29 (First Five-Year Plan Law).

23 - To equip medical hospitals to procure medical services for patients who are sent abroad or to purchase medical services, the sum of $50 million in foreign exchange, including $20 million in services foreign exchange (sending patients abroad), $20 million in commercial foreign exchange, and $10 million in petroleum foreign exchange will be deposited in the special account of the Securities Council of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to be spent gradually at the request of the Securities Council, whose members will be chosen by the minister of health, treatment, and medical education.

The conditions for importing materials will be restricted to those provided in the guidelines to be announced by the minister of health, treatment, and medical education.

The report on measures taken by the council will be sent as information every four months to the Majles Plan and Budget and Health commissions.

Note 30

A - To repay part of the government's debt to the National Retirement Fund in Notes One and Two under Article 70 of the National Employment Law accounting for the assets and funds assigned in the implementation of Note 23 in the Budget Laws for 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988] and 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] and Note 26 in the Budget Law of 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance must assign a maximum of 70 billion rials from the funds and assets in Paragraph B Note 28 of this law to the aforementioned fund. The Retirement Fund has priority over other government organizations.

The executive guidelines for this note with regard to the means of assessing and assigning the assets and funds, how to manage and utilize them, and how to set priorities, must be prepared as proposed by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance and the National Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization within one month of the enactment of this law, to be approved by the Council of Ministers.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance is responsible for the proper implementation of this paragraph and must submit a report on the work done under it every four months to the Plan and Budget and Employment commissions of the Majles.

B - The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance must deposit up to five billion rials in the treasury to repay part of the government's debt to the National Retirement Fund out of revenues from the sale of abandoned goods, and must procure up to a maximum of 50 billion rials from the sale of the assets and property in Note 82 of the Budget Law for 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984].

C - To procure the credit to implement the Retirement Regulations Amendment Law enacted in Esfand 1368 [20 February-20 March 1989] the Majles will add up to 51 billion rials from row 10,000 of the government revenues to row 10,404 under the National Retirement Fund Heading (Employer's Share).

The limit on Revenues Row 10,000 is set at the level for 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] in the Five-Year Plan.

Nepal & Bhutan

Government Removes Control on Newspapers

BK1104142990 Kathmandu External Service in English 1415 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] His majesty's government has decided to remove the current control on the publication of newspapers and adopt an open and liberal policy thereby withdrawing actions, if any being taken, against newspapers. In line with this decision, the control on various foreign publications has also been removed with immediate effect.

Parties Set Conditions for Joining Government

BK1104162590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1551 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 11 (AFP)—Nepal's main political parties, the Nepali Congress and the United Leftist Front, Wednesday [11 April] announced that they would refuse to join an interim government unless King Birendra fulfilled eight conditions. The parties said they were willing to wait "a month, a year if necessary" for the king to accede to the conditions which include the immediate dissolution of the partyless Panchayat system and the present government headed by Lokendra Bahadur Chand.

Asked if the groups would take to the streets again if their demands were not met, as suggested by the extreme left who did not participate in the two hour Congress-United Leftist Front meeting, a spokesman said "we will give them time." The eight conditions were announced jointly in front of television cameras in the garden of the private house of a Congress leader in Kathmandu late

Wednesday. Many of the demands had been aired by individual party leaders after the king bowed Sunday night to demands to lift the 30-year-long ban on political parties, but it was the first time they had been put forward as joint preconditions. The conditions also included the deletion of all clauses and subclauses of all articles of the constitution referring to a partyless system, and the dissolution of all village and district Panchayats. All Panchayat property must be nationalised, and all political prisoners arrested during and after the seven-week pro-democracy movement released immediately, the statement said.

The final two conditions are that the familes of all those that died in the democracy movement be "respectfully compensated" and those wounded given adequate assistance, and that an "immediate and independent inquiry" be launched into atrocities committed during the campaign, and those found guilty punished. The opposition has put the number killed by riot police and troops during the protest at between 400 and 500, but the government has neither confirmed nor denied the figure.

Speaking to journalists after the joint meeting, before which they posed for photographers with their arms raised in a show of unity of purpose, Congress leaders called the continued existence of the Panchayat after the lifting of the ban on political parties "an anachronism." The two parties also scotched reports that they might be willing to accept seats in the present government, saying they would only join a "new provisional government" to stay in office until elections are held. Nor would they accept Mr. Chand as the head of a new government, even if he were nominated by the king, the spokesman said after reading out the eight conditions in English and Nepali. "Either the king must head the new government himself or a political party member" must head it, he said.

Mr. Chand had said in a press conference Monday [9 April] that he hoped his government, put in place only last Friday [6 April], would form the basis of the new government, and sources close to the palace had indicated that the king had considered that option. Earlier Wednesday, party sources said the two groups had been engaged in negotiations over how many candidates they would put forward for inclusion in the new government.

Mr. Chand, whose government announced on radio Wednesday evening the lifting of bans on several newspapers, had said in a broadcast late Tuesday night [10 April] that his government was trying to conclude negotiations with the parties Wednesday. The government said Wednesday it was lifting its ban on more than a dozen newspapers. In the same broadcast, the government pledged that all those detained in connection with the pro-democracy movement and charged with offenses against the state would be released Friday [13 April]. Some 38 journalists and many of the academics who were among thousands arrested during the seven weeks of pro-democracy protests were freed last Friday.

Parties Sending 'Confused Signals' as Reforms Lag

BK1204085490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0823 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 12 (AFP)—Nepal's newly freed political parties appeared to be sending confused signals to the public Thursday [12 April] over whether or not they would restart street protests here, as the government dragged its feet on implementing a promised multi-party system. Girija Prasad Koirala, general secretary of the centrist Nepali Congress, told journalists late Wednesday night [11 April] his party and the United Leftist Front (ULF) had sent a message to King Birendra seeking a direct dialogue within the next 48 hours. If the monarch did not respond, he warned, street protests could erupt again. His statements were in sharp contrast to an announcement only hours earlier by the Congress and the ULF after a joint meeting Wednesday evening that they were prepared to wait "a month or even a year" for the king to act.

Both Mr. Koirala and Congress President Krishna Prasad Bhattaray had met with the king Sunday [8 April] for critical talks after which government radio announced that the monarch had bowed to the people's demands for a multi-party system. Negotiations since then have been held with the government headed by Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand. In the joint statement, released by Mr. Bhattaray after a two hour joint meeting, the parties had said that unless eight preconditions, including the removal of the Chand government, were fulfilled they would refuse to join an interim coalition government. They told the press then that negotiations were under way and that the government should "be given time".

The eight conditions also included the immediate dissolution of the 30-year-old partyless Panchayat system of elected bodies at the national, district and village level, and the deletion of clauses and subclauses in the Constitution which referred to the system. An organization of hard-line communists, the United National Democratic Movement (UNDM), has already rejected any negotiations between the king, the Congress and the ULF, but has so far stayed off the streets.

The UNDM Wednesday afternoon arranged a public meeting at Kritipur hamlet on the outskirts of Kathmandu where police firing last week reportedly killed six and injured 20. At Wednesday's meeting Padma Ratna Tuladhar, a leftist Panchayat member, had warned the king for the second time that if the National Panchayat (parliament) were not immediately dissolved and a coalition government formed, the people would return to the streets.

Sources close to the Panchayat camp said that arrangements were being made to amend the Constitution so that it would officially name the Nepalese political system "multi-party Panchayat." They also said plans were being made to call a meeting of the National

Panchayat before it is dissolved, indicating that the king was moving towards that end. However political observers here said they feared that any call to hold a meeting of the Panchayat would result in an instant and violent reaction from the general public, the communists in particular.

The government-owned Radio Nepal said early Thursday that negotiations were still continuing with the Congress and the United Leftist Front, and government sources confirmed that talks were on.

King, Top Opposition Leader Hold 'Key Talks'

BK1304053390 Hong Kong AFP in English 0525 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 13 (AFP)—Nepal's King Birendra was holding Friday [13 April] key talks with Ganesh Man Singh, the top leader of the opposition Nepali Congress, a party source said. Mr. Singh was expected to reiterate pro-democracy opposition demands that the unicameral national panchayat, or parliament, be dissolved and a coalition government be formed under the chairmanship of the king, the party source said. Mr. Singh was also going to urge the formation of a constitutional drafting committee, the party source said.

The talks come after the king agreed Sunday to end a 30-year ban on political parties following violent protests last week which left up to 500 dead when police opened fire, according to opposition sources.

While the centrist Nepali Congress and the United Leftist Front (ULF) were undergoing negotiations with the king, the hardline communist United National Democratic Movement threatened to resume political demonstrations. The group complained that the king's weekend concessions were not sufficiently far-reaching. It charged that the Nepali Congress and the ULF had united in a bid to deceive the Nepalese people.

The results of the talks between the king and Mr. Singh, considered crucial to the destiny of the nation, were awaited here eagerly.

"If the talks fail, the political trouble may restart," said Prem Lal Singh, chief spokesman of the Nepali Congress.

"Following the dialogue, the present government headed by Mr. Lokendra Bahadur Chand is expected to be dissolved as per the demands of the political parties," Mr. Singh said.

The talks came after the Nepali Congress and the ULF sent a message to King Birendra on Wednesday [11 April] warning that street protests would resume if the king did not agree to open a direct dialogue within the next 48 hours.

Political observers here were hoping the king would announce the concessions Saturday [14 April], Nepal's new year's day.

"Time is running out both for the king and opposition leaders. The sooner they settle this question, the better for the country," one analyst said.

Opposition Wants 'British-Style Monarchy'

OW1304093990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0911 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 13, KYODO—Nepal's multiparty campaign leader Ganesh Man Singh said Friday [13 April] he will insist on instituting the proposed consititution reforms commission as soon as possible when he meets King Birendra later in the day. Singh, 75, considered the symbol of the kingdom's current pro-democracy movement, told KYODO NEWS SERVICE at his residence Friday morning that his country will have a democratic political system under the aegis of a constituional monarchy.

"Our preference is the British-style monarchy. The king has been an absolute monarch to date. Now we want to limit his power," Singh said.

Asked about the possibility of some of the forces at the Nepalese Royal Palace trying to prevent the king from giving power to the people, Singh said, "some reactionary forces may be there, but the king cannot ignore the popular urge anymore."

Singh said the political parties and the people have reserved the right to revive the pro-democracy movement, called off last Sunday [8 April] after King Birendra lifted the ban on political parties. With the abolition of the one-party system, the crisis of confidence between the king and the people has been resolved to a considerable extent and the king is now expected to take more steps toward meeting the wishes of the people, Singh said.

"Otherwise, why would he call me for a meeting today?" Singh reported.

Singh said he is optimistic about the king conceding to the conditions put forward by the multiparty campaign leaders Wednesday [11 April]. The conditions include the release of all political prisoners, and the dissolution of the Rastirya Panchayt (National Assembly).

Pakistan

Spokesman Denies Report of Soldiers' Deaths

BK1304083690 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] An official spokesman in Rawalpindi has categorically denied a report published in a section of the press that five Pakistani soldiers were killed in an exchange of fire between Indian and Pakistani troops in Poonch sector. He said the report attributed to Indian sources is baseless.

Deployment Reports Dismissed as 'Disinformation'

BK1204164890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1643 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Islamabad, April 12 (AFP)—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto offered special prayers Thursday [12 April] for Kashmiris killed in their fight for self-determination, as her Defense Ministry denied Indian reports of Pakistani troop movements.

"Our Kashmiri brothers and sisters are offering great sacrifices for the liberation of their homeland," Ms. Bhutto told members of her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) at a function in Rawalpindi, near here.

More than 400 people have died since the start of the year in connection with a separatist campaign in Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state, according to an unofficial toll. Ms. Bhutto said she was offering "special prayers" for those "martyred in the freedom struggle" in Kashmir.

Dozens of Kashmiri women demonstrated Thursday in front of the Soviet Embassy here to attract Moscow's attention to "repression" by its ally India against Kashmiri Moslems.

Pakistan's Defense Ministry Thursday dismissed as "disinformation" reports from New Delhi that Pakistan was moving troops and material, notably radars, in the section of Kashmir it controls. There has been "no change in the position on the Pakistani side, no change in the deployment" of troops and material, a Ministry spokesman said.

Tension has mounted sharply between India and Pakistan since the separatist Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) executed three hostages Tuesday [10 April] and Wednesday [11 April] in India-controlled Kashmir, with each side accusing the other of massing troops along the line of control dividing Kashmir.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir since the subcontinent's partition and independence from the British in 1947.

Pakistan has repeatedly denied arming the militants and has argued that Kashmiris should be able to hold a referendum—in line with a 1949 U.N. resolution—on whether the territory should be assigned to India or Pakistan. But at least one of the region's militant groups, the JKLF, is now calling for Kashmir to be independent.

Minister Reiterates 'Full Support' for Kashmiris

BK1204154390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Mohammad Hanif Khan, the federal minister for Kashmir affairs, has reiterated Pakistan's principled stand on occupied Kashmir and has said it is our duty to extend our full support to the Kashmiri people's just struggle for self-determination. He said in Skardu that India has no moral or legal justification for using force or threatening to use force against any of its neighbors. The common Indian people oppose the establishment of military superiority at the cost of the interests of millions of poor people.

Indian 'War Threats' Over Khasmir Viewed

BK1304081390 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Commentary by station political commentator: "Indian War Threats—Index of Mounting Desperation"]

[Text] A Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman on Wednesday [11 April] deeply regretted another threat of war by the top leadership of India at a time when Pakistan is seeking a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir problem. The spokesman was commenting on a statement by the Indian prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, who threatened Pakistan of war while speaking in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday [10 April]. He said it is unfortunate that Pakistan's statements urging a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir problem have brought such a bellicose response from the Government of India as can only add to tension between the two countries and thus cause deep apprehensions in a region of the world where one-fifth of the mankind lives.

The spokesman said that the Indian statements, including the one delivered by Mr. Singh on Tuesday, are an index of the mounting desperation of the Indian Government in dealing with the situation in the Indian-held Kashmir. A major source of this desperation is India's manifest failure to convince the world that the struggle of the people of Kashmir was in any way related to external factors. The Kashmiris have proved through massive demonstrations that the uprising is entirely indigenous and was a total rejection of India which has denied their right to self-determination for over four decades. Instead of pacifying Kashmiris, India is resorting to tough methods which invite retaliation which is avoidable. Many Indian journalists and other men of conscience in India have exposed such terrible atrocities committed by the Indian security forces on Kashmiris.

Once again, Pakistan has categorically rejected the allegation that Pakistan is in any way fomenting insurgency in any part of India or in the disputed territory of Kashmir, the future of which has to be decided according to the UN resolutions and the Simla agreement as pledged to the people of that territory by both India and Pakistan.

The need of the hour is for the Government of India to come forward and honor this pledge. Many Pakistani newspapers have also editorially commented on the Indian threat. These comments also provide a very interesting contrast. While in India, the newspapers know fully well the exact situation in the occupied Kashmir, they also continue to advise the government to adopt a bellicose stand vis-a-vis Pakistan. On the contrary in Pakistan, the situation is quite different. The

leading daily PAKISTAN TIMES writes that what is happening in Kashmir cannot obviously be the result of any outside (?fomenting). New Delhi has to admit that this is a genuine uprising. Pakistan's sympathies with the Kashmiris' right of self-determination have always been open. There is no breach of international law, no diplomatic impropriety, and no provocation to international war in that. Concluding, the paper says that Pakistan's interest lies in a peaceful approach to the crisis. Even the United States, as well as the UN secretary general, have once again advised the two countries to allow a political dialogue to solve the problem. Yesterday, the spokesman of the Pakistan Foreign Office also did not take a different line. He reaffirmed Pakistan's adherence to its policy to work for a durable and honorable peace with India. This policy included the search for a peaceful solution of the Kashmir dispute. The spokesman observed that it is nothing short of tragic that at a time when the entire world is moving toward a new era of peace and prosperity, India is still threatening to plunge South Asia into a conflict which can only bring untold sufferings to the people of this region.

Pakistan has also forcefully denied the Indian contention given in the Indian Parliament that Pakistan was showing a lukewarm attitude toward the Simla agreement. The Foreign Office spokesman said the Simla agreement, which has maintained peace between the two countries for years together, provided the framework of Indian-Pakistan relations and [words indistinct] to the other party. However, Pakistan's commitment to the Simla agreement is not diminishing in any way.

Tanks, Armored Trucks Withdrawn From Karachi

BK1204162190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1550 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Karachi, April 12 (AFP)—Tanks and armoured personnel carriers were withdrawn Thursday [12 April] from the streets of Pakistan's largest city after 24 hours of extraordinary mobilisation amid rising tensions in Sind, official sources said. They were deployed in the city centre and throughout sensitive areas here Wednesday [11 April] before the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) announced the death of Najib Ahmed, former president of the People's Students Federation (PSF).

Mr. Ahmed, 26, died from bullet wounds sustained last Friday [6 April] in an ambush allegedly mounted by activists of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), representing Urdu-speaking settlers from India in this southern province. He was buried late Wednesday under heavy police guard. Soon afterward the PSF said it would observe Friday [13 April] as a "black day" to protest his killing, followed by a seven-day mourning period with youths wearing black armbands.

The attack has sparked a new wave of gang war between PPP and MQM activists, bringing to more than 20 the death toll in recent clashes here.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who expressed deep shock at Friday's killing, told party workers in northern Rawalpindi on Thursday that "linguistic, regional and other divisive moves would not be allowed to take root on Pakistan's soil." But her call to "be prepared for offering sacrifices" came as Islamabad had yet to make any visible moves toward a dialogue with the opposition aimed at resolving the current crisis.

Meanwhile MQM leader Altaf Hussain, 36, continued his fast unto death for the fifth day Thursday in a bid to force the government to release several MQM activists, including one senior leader jailed for alleged involvement in Friday's clash. Party sources said Mr. Hussain's condition was deteriorating, adding that he was being provided with intravenous drips. Hundreds of MQM supporters have also observed a hunger strike since Sunday [8 April], lying under tents pitched outside Mr. Hussain's modest middle-class home.

The combined opposition parties have expressed solidarity with the MQM and decided to send a high-level delegation here Friday to try to persuade Mr. Hussain to end his fast.

Ms. Bhutto called an overnight meeting in Islamabad Wednesday to discuss the rapidly worsening situation in Sind with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, while unconfirmed reports said one of her cabinet ministers was headed here to initiate contact with the MQM.

General Mirza Aslam Beg, Pakistan's Army chief, said Wednesday events in Sind represented a "crisis situation...not conducive to the national security, particularly in view of threats of war from India."

MQM Rejects Invitation for Talks on Sind

BK1304031090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] The commissioner of Karachi met the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] leadership yesterday and extended an invitation from the Sind chief minister for talks and a Ramadan fast breaking party at the chief minister's house. The MQM has rejected the invitation and said the chief minister should visit the residence of the MQM leader in Azizabad. The alternative suggested by them is that the meeting should be conducted at the Presidential Palace in Islamabad.

Meanwhile, a Sind government spokesman has reaffirmed the government's commitment to democracy and the desire to settle every issue according to democratic principles.

Qaiyum Nizami, the Pakistan People's Party's central information secretary, has appealed to the president to impose a ban on all linguistic organizations in the country in the best interests of the nation. He made this appeal in a statement issued yesterday in Lahore.

Meanwhile, 11 people were injured in shootings by unidentified people in (Ranchor Lines) yesterday night.

According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, the injured have been admitted to the Civil Hospital, Karachi. Four of the injured people are stated to be in critical condition.

Reports on Secret Contacts With Israel Denied

BK1304025090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad yesterday described as totally incorrect and baseless THE WASHINGTON POST report that Pakistan has agreed to establish contacts with Israel secretly and that Israeli officials have visited Karachi and concluded several trade and defense deals. A similar report also has been circulated by the Indian news agency PRESS TRUST OF INDIA. The spokesman added Pakistan does not recognize Israel, and, hence, the question of any kind of exchange with Israel does not arise.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Delegation Meets With President

Presents Election Demands

BK1104115590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1149 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Colombo, April 11 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil rebel group has said that it wants to face elections and has urged Colombo to dissolve a northeast regional government controlled by a rival Tamil party, a government communique said Wednesday [11 April]. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which virtually controls the sprawling northeast, made the demand at a meeting with President Ranasinghe Premadasa here late Tuesday [10 April], the statement said.

The statement quoted an LTTE delegation that flew into Colombo on Tuesday as saying that the group was "keen to seek a mandate from the people" in the north and east, inhabited by the island's minority Tamil community. The delegation also reportedly wanted the dissolution of the northeastern provincial administration, controlled by the rival Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF). The LTTE termed the EPRLF government as "defunct." Most members of the provincial administration have fled the region since India withdrew its troops from the Tamil-majority northeast in March ending a 32-month presence.

The communique quoted Mr. Premadasa as saying that the legal aspects of dissolving the EPRLF-controlled government were being examined and "a decision would be taken shortly."

The LTTE boycotted the November 1988 elections that brought the EPRLF to power in the northeast. The EPRLF is violently anti-LTTE and opposes calls for the regional administration's dissolution.

The LTTE delegation also urged the government to speed up development programmes and to promote tourism in the northeast, interrupted for years because of the bloody Tamil separatist campaign. The LTTE opened peace talks with Colombo in April 1988, about 18 months after it launched a bloody bush war against the Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka under a bilateral pact aimed at ending Tamil separatism.

The LTTE team that met Mr. Premadasa included its deputy leader, Gopalasamy Mahendirajah, and theoretician Anton Balasingham. The LTTE team earlier Tuesday met Justice Minister Shahul Hameed and top security officials here to discuss law and order in the northeast.

The government said Tuesday after the talks that normality had been restored in the region, where the LTTE has hundreds of cadres under arms.

Details of Meeting Reported

BK1204113690 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] President R. Premadasa received the delegation of the LTTE at the Sucharita Hall last night [11 April]. The delegation consisted of Gopalasamy Mahendraraja Mahattaya; Anton Balasingham; Yogaratnam Yogi; Karikaran, political organizer for the eastern province; Castro, political organizer for the Amparai District; and Rooban, political organizer for Trincomalee. Associated with the president was A.C.S. Hameed, minister of justice and chairman of the Northeast Peace Committee.

The delegation told the president that since the LTTE has entered the democratic process, it is keen to seek a mandate from the people and urged the president to take early steps to dissolve the Northeast Provincial Council, which they said was defunct. The president said that the legal aspects of this problem is being examined and a decision would be taken shortly.

The delegation also informed the president that since the withdrawal of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force], the situation in the north and the east has improved considerably and that there is peace and normalcy and requested the government to resume the development programs that have been interrupted in the past. The delegation also stressed the urgency to start the rehabilitation and reconstruction program, as a large section of the people had to be assisted urgently. It urged that various government enterprises, including the Paranthan Chemicals, that have not been operative for years should be started without further delay. The delegation said that large numbers of tourists are anxious to visit the north and the east and that every encouragement should be provided to promote tourist industry in the north and eastern provinces. The president said that he was happy at these developments and assured the delegation that their request would be given early consideration.